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"FROM FEDALA TO BERCHTESGADEN"

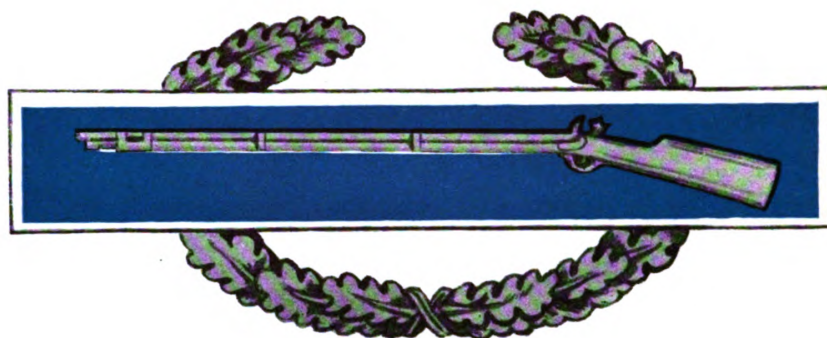


W H I T E

COMBAT COURSE of THE
7TH 'Light-Foot' INFANTRY
FROM
"FEDALA to BERCHTESGADEN"



FROM FEDALA TO BERCHTESGADEN



A History of the Seventh United States Infantry in World War II

Written and Compiled
by

NATHAN WILLIAM WHITE

(A member of the "7th Light Foot" Infantry from 25 May 1944 to 4 February 1946)

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IN MEMORIAM

"Greater love hath no man than this,
That a man lay down his life for his friends."
New Testament: John xv, 13.

To the memory of the more than two thousand one hundred men and officers of the Seventh United States Infantry, who poured out their blood for the causes of mankind and country, for the glory and honor of their beloved Regiment that it might never fail in its mission from Fedala to Berchtesgaden, and who now repose peacefully in watery graves of the oceans, seas and rivers over which they assaulted, or within graves on the beachheads, in the valleys and plains, the forests and the rugged mountains where they waged the gallant fight, this work is dedicated; and we, the survivors, pledge ourselves to keep faith: Of all creeds, of all walks of life, and, from all States of the Union they came. Though they sleep far from their homes, in the hearts of their loved ones, and in the hearts of their comrades-in-arms, who fought by their sides, their memory will live forever. God grant them a soldier's rest.

"Soldier, rest! thy warfare o'er,
Dream of fighting fields no more;
Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking,
Morn of toil, nor night of waking."
Scott, "The Lady of the Lake"
canto i, st. 31.

Coat of Arms
Seventh United States Infantry



EXPLANATION

The crossed rifles and the cotton bale above the shield commemorate the Battle of New Orleans, 1815, when cotton bales were used as breastworks.

The field piece on top of the mound recalls the action at Cerro Gordo, Mexico, 1847, when members of the Seventh carried the heights, dragging a field piece with them.

The wall represents the famous stone wall on Marye's Heights, Battle of Fredericksburg, 1862, behind which the Confederates were posted.

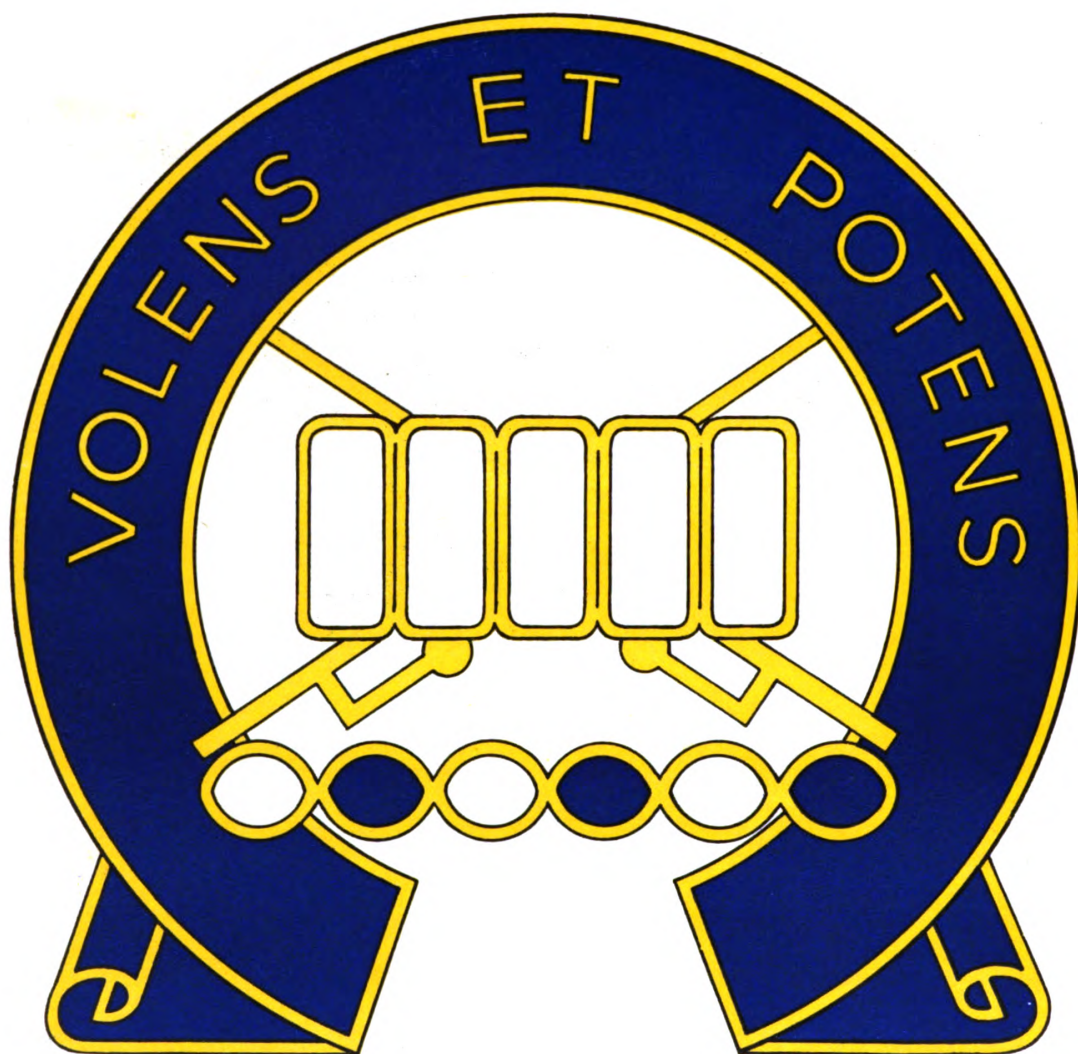
The diagonal stripes on the bottom of the shield are for World War I, the white representing three major engagements, the blue, four minor engagements.

The Croix de Guerre with star was awarded by the French Government for service in World War I.

The motto, *Volens et Potens* means "Willing and Able."



Regimental Colors
Seventh United States Infantry



Regimental Crest
Seventh United States Infantry

Campaign and Battle Streamers Attached to the Seventh Infantry Colors

CANADA — FLORIDA 1814

NEW ORLEANS 1815

CREEKS SEMINOLES

UTES PINE RIDGE

TEXAS 1846 MONTEREY

VERA CRUZ CERRO GORDO

CONTRERAS CHURUBUSCO

MOHINO DEL REY CHARUPTERO

Campaign and Battle Streamers Attached to the Seventh Infantry Colors

NEW MEXICO 1860

NEW MEXICO 1861 1862

KENTUCKY 1862

TENNESSEE 1862

MISSISSIPPI 1862

CHICKAMAUGA CHATTANOOGA

CHANCELLORSVILLE

MURFREESBOROUGH

Campaign and Battle Streamers Attached to the Seventh Infantry Colors

FREDERICKSBURG

TENNESSEE 1863 GETTYSBURG

GEORGIA 1864 ATLANTA

WYOMING 1866

LITTLE BIG HORN NEZ PERCES

MONTANA 1872

SANTIAGO

SAMAR 1901 1902

Campaign and Battle Streamers Attached to the Seventh Infantry Colors

AISNE ILE DE FRANCE

CHAMPAGNE

CHAMPAGNE MARNE

AISNE MARNE

ST. MIHIEL MEUSE ARGONNE

AISNE MARNE

CHAMPAGNE MARNE

ALGERIA FRENCH MOROCCO

Campaign and Battle Streamers Attached to the Seventh Infantry Colors

TUNISIA - SICILY - NAPLES - FOGGIA

ROME - ARNO - SOUTHERN - FRANCE

GERMANY

COMBAT INFANTRY REGIMENT

Seventh United States Infantry Banners

Today, while the Regiment is stationed in Kentucky, thirty-seven campaign, battle and citation streamers are proudly flown from the colors of the Seventh United States Infantry. It is believed that the number is correct, but it is possible that the number should be greater.

It will be noted that the streamers for World War II fighting which was probably as severe as the fighting in any previous war for the Seventh Infantry, actually number only four though the Regiment won official credit for eight campaigns. It seems then that the War Department policy in regard to such awards has been an inconsistent one. The second streamer given for this last war is actually for three campaigns while the third and fourth streamers are each for two campaigns.

Information as to how the Regiment's record compares with that of other old regular United States Army regiments is not available at this time but it is believed by the writer that the record of the "Cotton Baler" or "7th Light Foot" Infantry rates among the highest in the glorious record of American arms.

Foreword

The Seventh Infantry Regiment, one of the oldest fighting organizations in the United States military service, with an enviable record in the annals of American military history from the Indian War of 1811 and the War of 1812 to the end of World War I, has in the North African, Mediterranean and European phases of the Second World War added to its long and colorful history. In keeping with its fighting traditions, the "Cotton Baler" Regiment or "7th Light Foot" Infantry, was among the first to see action in the Second World War on 8 November 1942, at Fedala, French Morocco, and entered Casablanca three days later.

Storming ashore in the first assault waves west of Licata, Sicily, 10 July 1943, the Seventh distinguished itself in the whirlwind, thirty-eight day, Sicilian Campaign by capturing Agrigento, Palermo, and Messina.

It was the Seventh Infantry which spearheaded the Third Infantry Division's attack across the swollen Volturno River in Italy, 13 October 1943, in one of the bloodiest engagements of this war and drove the enemy to the heights of Mignano. Its troops were among the first on to the beaches south of Nettuno, 22 January 1944, and won new laurels during the four months of hell on the Anzio Beachhead, during which time German forces tried desperately to destroy the Allied forces. Suffering numerous casualties the Seventh Infantry nevertheless, survived all onslaughts of the enemy and in the break-through, commencing 23 May 1944, drove on to capture Cisterna di Littoria. The Regiment helped drive the Boche from the Albano Hills and was the first to enter Rome, the Eternal City, on Sunday, 4 June 1944.

On 15 August 1944 the Seventh Infantry made its fourth amphibious assault against hostile shores during World War II at Cavalaire-sur-Mer, France. Reducing enemy resistance along the Riviera coast the Regiment then sped up the Rhone River Valley and passed through Aix-en-Provence. North of Montelimar, along a twelve mile stretch of road, "Cotton Balers" first observed and fired upon enemy vehicular and train convoys which subsequently became trapped between Third Division and VI Corps forces, and were destroyed. The Regiment played a principal role in the capture of Besancon on the Doubs. Penetrating the Vosges mountains the inimitable "Cotton Balers" crossed the Moselle, Mosellotte and Mortagne Rivers to engage in some of the bitterest fighting for Les Rouges Eaux and Le Haute Jacques, the "Cross Roads of Hell." The Meurthe River was crossed and the Seventh Infantry was first for the Third Infantry Division to enter the ancient province of Alsace. The enemy's Kehl bridgehead in Strasbourg, the Cathedral City on the Rhine, was wiped out, then the Seventh Infantry maintained its first "Watch on the Rhine" during the Second World War.

When the Third Infantry Division came under the command of the First French Army for the "Colmar Pocket" Operations, the Seventh Regiment successively held defensive positions along La Fecht River and in the Vosges Mountains. Swinging to the attack in the dead of winter, successive assaults were made across La Fecht River and the Canal de Colmar to capture several towns and seal Colmar off from the north and east. The assault was continued between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Rhine River, Biesheim was captured in a house to house battle and Neuf-Brisach was sealed off and wrapped up for other forces to enter unopposed. During the three phases of the "Colmar Pocket" attack the Regiment was never in reserve but always in the assault and played the prominent role for Third Infantry Division operations which won the coveted French Fourragere from the French Government and a citation from the President of the United States.

Following a second "Watch on the Rhine" in Alsace, the Regiment led the Third Infantry Division into Germany, participated in the breaching of the Siegfried Line, forced a crossing of the Rhine River in the face of strong opposition, and was first into Nürnberg, first into Augsburg, first into München, first into Salzburg, Austria, and captured Berchtesgaden, Germany, the prize of all military objectives in Europe. The former mountain hideout of Adolf Hitler, the objective of seven armies,¹ was captured on 4 May 1945 by the Seventh United States Infantry alone, and the story of how the "Cotton Baler" Regiment, under the command of Colonel John A. Heintges, outmaneuvered both the enemy and friendly forces, will always be told wherever "Cotton Balers" gather in future years.

What a record! From Fedala, French Morocco, to Berchtesgaden, Germany, in eight campaigns, over a period of two and one-half years against the best soldiers of Italy and Germany. A record unsurpassed.

* * * * *

The chief sources used in writing this history have been the Seventh Infantry S-3 and S-2 Reports: Third

Infantry Division G-3 and G-2 Reports; Seventh Infantry Battalion and Regimental Journals; statements and reports of action made by various commanders; evacuation reports; Third Infantry Division, Army and War Department general orders. Personal interviews were held with survivors of particular actions. For the period May, 1944, to the end of the war in May, 1945, the writer has personal knowledge of the Regimental plans and actions.

More than sixteen thousand men and officers served with the Seventh Infantry from Fedala to Berchtesgaden. The complete and true history of the Regiment for the war just ended would not only tell the story of its action as a unit, but recount that of its component elements, as well as describe the thoughts, feelings, sufferings, privations, heroic actions and shortcomings of each individual member. Needless to say all that has been impossible, nor would one even attempt it. This work is primarily a history of the Regiment. The reader is reminded that it is "a" rather than "the" history of the Seventh United States Infantry.

Work for this volume was commenced in June, 1945, shortly after the close of the war while the Regiment was assembled in Salzburg, Austria, and, was for the most part, completed in January, 1946, in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, where Headquarters were established for the tour of occupational duty conducted by the Regiment. Better results of course would have been obtained had an historian and photographer been assigned the mission of recording the Regiment's action back in 1942 and followed the Regiment through the eight campaigns in which it participated.

The writer is indebted to the many men who have shown an interest in this work and contributed to its completion. Acknowledgment is made of the work of Technician Fifth Grade Milton A. Solomon of Service Company, who collected many of the Signal Corps pictures and others shown in this volume. Technician Fifth Grade Hosea T. Hollis, Chaplain Raymond E. Vint and Captain George W. Yarnall contributed pictures. Photos of deceased members of the Regiment and of medal winners were made available to the author by next of kin or by members themselves. It is regretted that photos of all the dead heroes of the Regiment were not available for publication. Time, Inc., contributed the picture of the military cemetery on the old Anzio Beachhead and the pictures which show scenes of the taking of Cisterna di Littoria.

The writer is particularly indebted to the several map makers who labored long and tirelessly to make the originals of the many maps which accurately show the movements of the Regiment during its World War II service. Redeployment tended to remove skilled men after they had proven their ability but in the end all maps were completed. Technician Fifth Grade Donald Cheperka of the S-3 Section made the combat course map, the original colored drawings for the Regimental colors, crest and battle streamers, and, with the exception of Map No. 1, the tactical maps for the North African, Sicilian and South Italian campaigns. Map No. 1 was made by Mr. John R. Ferguson of Southbridge, Massachusetts. Following Cheperka's departure, Private First Class John F. Fitterer, formerly of Company "I", became the mainstay of the map making department and worked overtime to complete the work. For short periods he was assisted by Private First Class Edwin M. Ebur of Regimental Headquarters Company and Technician Fourth Grade Murray A. Strand of the Third Infantry Division G-3 Section. In the end Herr Walter Nolte, a discharged German officer, formerly of the Luftwaffe, was employed by the writer and helped complete the work. Two maps are reproductions of ones printed in the "Stars and Stripes" newspaper and one other was copied from a French map.

C. W. Van Scoyoc of Orting, Washington, kindly made available a list of "Colonels of the Seventh Infantry" from 1808 to 1941, as well as a picture of Colonel William Russell (1808-1815). Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour supplied information which helped complete the list.

Private First Class Raymond J. Thornburg, a veteran of Company "B" who suffered wounds during action, performed excellent service as typist. Private George Bertoncelli of First Battalion Headquarters Company, Private Olen J. Heroth of Third Battalion Headquarters Company, Private First Class Hugh McDaniel of Company "E" and Private Frank Pirozzi of Service Company all helped to compile the several lists which appear in the appendix.

Any opinions expressed in this book are those of the author and should not be construed as reflecting those of any of the regimental commanders or their superiors.

N. W. W.
Presque Isle, Maine
30 May 1946

¹ The seven Allied armies which closed in on the National Redoubt and Berchtesgaden in early May, 1945, were the First French, British Eighth, Second and Third Ukrainian Armies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the American Third, Fifth and Seventh Armies. See Map No. 116.

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A Brief History of the Seventh United States Infantry from 1798 to 1941¹



The Seventh United States Infantry was first organized in 1798 but after an existence of less than two years was mustered out of the service on 15 June 1800. On 3 May 1808 the Regiment was reorganized and since has seen continuous service to this day.

The first famous battle engaged in by the Seventh Infantry occurred during the Indian War of 1811. That year Tecumseh, the great chief of the Shawnee Indian Tribe, attempted to band together all the tribes of the Old Northwest, the South and the eastern Mississippi Valley, as the Indians, urged on by the British, were incensed over the approaches of the Americans. General William Henry Harrison led American forces in an expedition against the Indians. On 7 November 1811, on the site of the present town of Battle Ground or Prophetstown, Indiana, the American forces which included the Seventh Infantry broke the power of the Indian military movement in the Battle of Tippecanoe by defeating Tenskwatawa, the Shawnee Prophet and brother of Tecumseh. The Seventh Infantry won honors in that battle which brought great fame to General Harrison and helped elect him to the Presidency of the United States years later.

The Regiment's first battle with a foreign foe was fought during the War of 1812 against the British at Villier's Plantation, Louisiana, 23 December 1814. There and at Rodriguez Canal, 1 January 1815, the Seventh Infantry performed with the conspicuous bravery which has been its custom down through the years. But it was 8-9 January 1815 that the Regiment won undying fame in the Battle of New Orleans. It was in that battle, in which the American forces under General Andrew Jackson practically annihilated the opposing forces, that the Seventh Infantry won its nickname of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Using bales of cotton as breastworks Seventh Infantry riflemen shot down hundreds of British "Redcoats." Lord Pakenham, veteran of the European wars against Napoleon and a member of English royalty, with two thousand British soldiers, was killed in the action while the Americans suffered but a dozen killed. From that time the Seventh Infantry has always been known as the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Its action in the War of 1812 was ended at Fort St. Phillip on 9 January 1815.

From 1815 to 1846, nearly all that time under the command of Colonel Matthew Arbuckle, the Regiment was stationed for many years at Fort Gibson, located above the junction of the Grand and Arkansas Rivers near the present town of Muskogee, Oklahoma, and participated in numerous Indian operations. During the period 1839-1842, it took part in the Florida War against the Seminoles, who were fighting under their celebrated chief, Osceola. The Regiment took part in the following engagements in that war: Fort Drane, Florida, 15 March 1840; Fort King, Florida, 24 March 1840; Martin's Point Hammock, Florida, 28 December 1840; Wahoo Swamp, Florida, 11 May 1841; Fort Wachoota, 17 May 1841.

As difficulties with Mexico assumed serious proportions in 1846, the Seventh Infantry was concentrated at Corpus Christi, Texas, then moved to the Rio Grande, where opposite Matamoros, Mexico, it helped construct Fort Taylor, named for General Zachary Taylor. While garrisoning the new fort the Regiment successfully withstood a minor siege by the Mexicans, 3-9 May 1846. The fort was renamed Fort Brown in honor of Major Jacob Brown who was killed during the siege.

The Regiment then proceeded to Monterey, Mexico, arriving in time to take part in the Battle of Monterey, 21-23 September 1846, and contributed to the successful assault on the town.

Joining in the siege of Vera Cruz, which ended in Mexican capitulation on 24 March 1847, the Seventh Infantry accompanied the march into the interior. The Regiment performed brilliantly and won recognition for capturing the heights of Cerro Gordo, 17-18 April 1847. The entrenchments of Contreras and Churubusco were carried in August 1847, and finally the great works of Chapultepec, 12 September 1847. Mexico City was entered with colors flying, 14 September 1847.

Returning to the United States the Seventh Infantry remained on the frontier, building posts, making roads, and protecting settlers until 1858, when ordered to assemble at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, and to move to Utah for service during the Mormon troubles. In 1860 the Regiment campaigned against Indians in New Mexico.

During the Civil War the Regiment added many battle streamers to its collection and participated in the following engagements: Mesilla, 25 July 1861; Valverde, 21 February 1862; Fort Craig, 14 April 1862; Corinth, April-May, 1862; Fredericksburg, 11-15 December 1862; Murfreesborough, 31 December 1862-3 January 1863; Chancellorsville, 1-3 May 1863; Hoover's Gap, 25-26 June 1863; Gettysburg, 1-3 July 1863; Wapping Heights, 23 July 1863; Chickamauga, 19-20 September 1863; Siege of Chattanooga and Missionary Ridge, 24-25 November 1863; Buzzard's Roost, 9-11 May 1864; Resaca, 13-15 May 1864; New Hope Church, 24 May-5 June 1864; Kenesaw Mountain, 22 June-3 July 1864; Neal Dow Station, 4 July 1864; Utoy, Peach Tree Creek and Battle of Atlanta, 20 July-30 August 1864; Jonesboro, 1 September 1864.

The years from 1869 to 1898 indelibly identify the Seventh Infantry with the development of the West, the complete history of which would fill a library. Fights with the Indians were resumed. A battle was fought at Pryor's Fork 4 August 1871. In the Sioux Campaign of 1876 alone the Regiment marched seventeen hundred miles in six months and nineteen days, during which time it fought several engagements and, among other exploits, rescued what was left of General Custer's command, after the massacre at Little Big Horn. On 9 August 1877 the Regiment was engaged at Big Hole Basin, Montana. Its last operation against the Indians occurred in 1891.

During the War with Spain the Seventh Infantry fought in Cuba at El Caney, 1 July 1898, and at San Juan Hill, 2-3 July 1898. In 1901 and 1902 the Regiment fought on Luzon and Samar in the Philippines to help suppress the insurrection. Arduous service was later performed in Alaska.

World War I found the Regiment well prepared. It distinguished itself in the following operations in France: Aisne Defensive, 1-5 June 1918; Chateau-Thierry Sector, 6 June-14 July 1918; Champagne-Marne Defensive, 15-18 July 1918; Aisne-Marne Offensive, 18-27 July 1918; Meuse Argonne Offensive, 3 September-27 October 1918; St. Mihiel Offensive, 12-15 September 1918. A grateful French Government awarded the Seventh Infantry the Croix de Guerre with Star.

After serving in Germany in the Army of Occupation from 18 November 1918 to 12 August 1919, the "Cotton Baler" Regiment returned to the United States. Following brief stays at several posts it moved in September, 1922, to Vancouver Barracks, Washington, where it remained until January, 1941, when it moved to Fort Lewis, Washington.

¹ Sources used in writing this brief history were the battle streamers attached to the Regimental colors and metal bands on the standard which name the campaigns and battles with their dates. The Seventh Infantry Yearbook of 1941 and a typescript bulletin entitled "Through the Years with the Seventh Infantry," issued by Seventh Infantry Headquarters in 1944, were also used for reference.

Colonels of the Seventh United States Infantry



First Colonel after re-organization in 1808
COLONEL WILLIAM RUSSELL



Last Colonel to command during World War II
COLONEL JOHN ARNOLD HEINTGES

COLONELS OF THE REGIMENT FROM 1808 TO 1946

Colonel William Russell	3 May 1808 to 17 May 1815	Colonel Willey Howell	15 August 1923 to 30 June 1925
Colonel James McDonald	17 May 1815 to 30 April 1817	Colonel Frank J. Morrow	1 July 1925 to 12 August 1927
Colonel David Brearley	30 April 1817 to 16 March 1820	Colonel Frank W. Rowell	29 January 1928 to 19 October 1930
Colonel Matthew Arbuckle	16 March 1820 to 11 June 1851	Colonel Dwight W. Ryther	1 December 1930 to 31 May 1933
Colonel Henry Wilson	11 June 1851 to 25 February 1861	Colonel Harry A. Wells	1 June 1933 to 31 October 1934
Colonel John J. Abercrombie	25 February 1861 to 12 June 1865	Colonel Edwin S. Hartshorn	1 November 1934 to 28 June 1935
Colonel John T. Sprague	12 June 1865 to 15 March 1869	Colonel Henry Hossfeld	29 June 1935 to 9 August 1937
Colonel John Gibbon	15 March 1869 to 10 July 1885	Colonel Ralph R. Glass	19 October 1937 to 30 September 1939
Colonel Henry C. Merriam	10 July 1885 to 7 July 1897	Colonel George M. Parker, Jr.	1 October 1939 to 6 May 1941
Colonel Daniel W. Benham	7 July 1897 to 23 July 1898	Colonel Harrison McAlpine	7 May 1941 to
Colonel Edwin M. Coates	23 July 1898 to 29 January 1900	Lieutenant Colonel Peter T. Wolfe to 21 April 1942
Colonel William S. McCaskey	29 January 1900 to 3 February 1900	Colonel Robert C. Macon	21 April 1942 to 19 February 1943
Colonel Lloyd Wheaton	3 February 1900 to 2 March 1901	Colonel Harry B. Sherman	19 February 1943 to 17 February 1944
Colonel Charles A. Coolidge	2 March 1901 to 7 August 1903		and from 27 February 1944 to 11 March 1944
Colonel Daniel Cornman	8 August 1903 to 6 February 1916	Colonel William O. Darby	17 February 1944 to 18 February 1944
Colonel Frank B. Jones	6 February 1916 to 21 December 1917	Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro	18 February 1944
Colonel T. M. Anderson, Jr.	21 December 1917 to 1 August 1918		to 27 February 1944 and from 11 March 1944 to 22 August 1944
	and from 3 September 1921 to 5 August 1923	Colonel Ben Harrell	22 August 1944 to 2 December 1944
Colonel Edmund L. Butts	1 August 1918 to 5 October 1918	Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour	2 to 4 December 1944
Colonel William M. Morrow	5 October 1918 to 18 April 1919	Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro	4 to 5 December 1944
Colonel Austin F. Prescott	18 April 1919 to 26 October 1919	Colonel John A. Heintges	5 December 1944 to 18 June 1946
Colonel Mark Wheeler	26 October 1919 to 30 June 1920	Lieutenant Colonel Jack M. Duncan	18 June 1946 to —
Colonel Otho B. Rosenbaum	6 November 1920 to 3 September 1921		

PART ONE

French Moroccan and Tunisian Campaigns

8 November 1942—6 July 1943

The Invasion of North Africa

In October, 1942, the Allied situation in World War II was critical. The Germans were secure in Western Europe and, in the east, were inside Stalingrad. In Africa the Germans had reached El Alamein in Egypt. The Japanese were consolidating their newly won gains in the Pacific and there was danger that Hitler's dream of combining forces with Japan would come true. Offensive action against the Axis powers was imperative.

An important offensive action was planned against Germany and her satellite, Italy. It was to be made by American forces in a North African invasion timed with a push by the British Eighth Army from El Alamein. The objective was to free North Africa and destroy the Afrika Korps of the German desert fox, Rommel. Infantry divisions prepared to take the field in this first American offensive against the Axis forces and included the Third Infantry ("Rock of the Marne") Division of World War I fame.

Following the sneak Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941, and the declaration of war by Germany and Italy against the United States of America, the Seventh United States Infantry, as a unit of the Third Infantry Division, participated in extended amphibious training in conjunction with the Marine Corps at San Diego, California, during the spring of 1942. Then it moved to Fort Ord, California. Though many thought the Regiment would soon see action in the Pacific Theatre of Operations, the "Cotton Balermen" in September, 1942, moved east to Camp Pickett, Virginia.

In mid October, 1942, American forces were ready for their first big test and the plans were completed for the invasion of North Africa. Actually war had been waged in Africa for several years commencing with that black day in October, 1935, when Italian troops invaded Ethiopia from Eritrea and Somaliland on the pretext of border incidents caused by the Ethiopians. Addis Ababa was occupied in May, 1936, and the conquest was complete. During the successful German offensives in Western Europe, 1939-1940, which saw Poland, Denmark, Norway, the Low Countries, Belgium and, France herself, all very decisively defeated and overrun, and while the Battle of Britain was waged, only minor military action occurred in Africa but Italy did invade and conquer British Somaliland. Britain assembled troops in Palestine, Egypt and the Near East, from her far flung empire, and prepared for desert fighting. On 13 September 1940, Field Marshal Graziani, with an army of 200,000 men, launched the first Axis offensive from Libya for the Suez Canal and captured Sidi Barrani, but was stopped after a penetration of only seventy miles into Egypt. On 9 December 1940, the first British offensive got underway under the direction of General Wavell. The Italians were driven out of Egypt back into Libya. Bardia, Tobruk, Benghazi and El Agheila were all seized by 9 February 1941. British Somaliland was also recovered and the Italians in Ethiopia were defeated. Haile Selassie returned home again.

Warfare in Africa was suddenly changed when the Germans succeeded in shipping two crack panzer divisions and a division of light infantry to Libya to bolster Italian forces and morale. To command the field troops Hitler sent one of his most skillful field generals, Lieutenant-General Erwin Rommel, who had won brilliant successes for the Nazis in Europe. On 24 March 1941, Rom-

mel's forces opened the second Axis offensive in Libya which overran advanced British forces and by mid-May was at Halfaya Pass within Egypt. Tobruk was not captured during that advance but held out for seven months. With Rommel at Halfaya, Great Britain concentrated men and materiel in Egypt and with a new commanding general for the Eighth Army, General Cunningham, launched their second Libyan offensive on 17-18 November 1941. But in just a few days the British were checked and the situation became critical for them. General Ritchie replaced General Cunningham as Rommel's forces turned to the attack themselves and inflicted heavy losses on British units.

On 26 May 1942, Rommel opened the third Axis offensive in Libya. Maneuvering his mobile forces masterfully he penetrated British mine field positions and when British armor moved against him he attacked their lines of communication. On 13 June 1942, his forces succeeded in ambushing and destroying 230 British tanks which settled the issue of the campaign. The British then withdrew, Tobruk surrendered and the "Desert Fox" drove 120 miles into Egypt, to El Alamein where just sixty miles from Alexandria, he was stopped with great difficulty.

On 23 October 1942, the British Eighth Army, under a new commander, General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, re-inforced and re-equipped with American materiel, opened the third and final British offensive in Libya which broke Rommel's El Alamein line on 3 November 1942, and sent his forces into retreat. While British forces hammered against the Axis troops from the east, American forces were to make one of the greatest overseas invasions in all history and put on a squeeze from the west. The combined operation under the supreme command of Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower of the United States Army, was to bring about the end of the Axis power in Africa. Without the American invasion the see-saw battle might have continued indefinitely.

"Torch" was the code name given to the amphibious operation which was to change the complexion of the entire war. American strategists planned for simultaneous landings on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of French colonial territory. Of the army of nearly one quarter million men the United States had built up in England and Northern Ireland, 126,000 were scheduled to take part in the invasion, while 65,000 others in America were to make a direct crossing of the Atlantic to strike at North Africa.¹ The forces from the British Isles (designated as Center Task Force) were to pass through the Straits of Gibraltar and land in the vicinity of Oran and Algiers in Algeria. The Western Task Force sailing from America, and under the command of Major General George S. Patton, Jr., was to make a three point landing in French Morocco with Sub-Task Force "Blackstone" on the right in the vicinity of Safi, Sub-Task Force "Brushwood" in the center in the vicinity of Casablanca and Sub-Task Force "Goalpost" on the left in the vicinity of Port Lyautey.² At a later time Eastern Task Force, comprised of British units, would land near Tunisia.

¹ Detzer, "The Mightiest Army," Pleasantville, N. Y., 1945, p. 38.

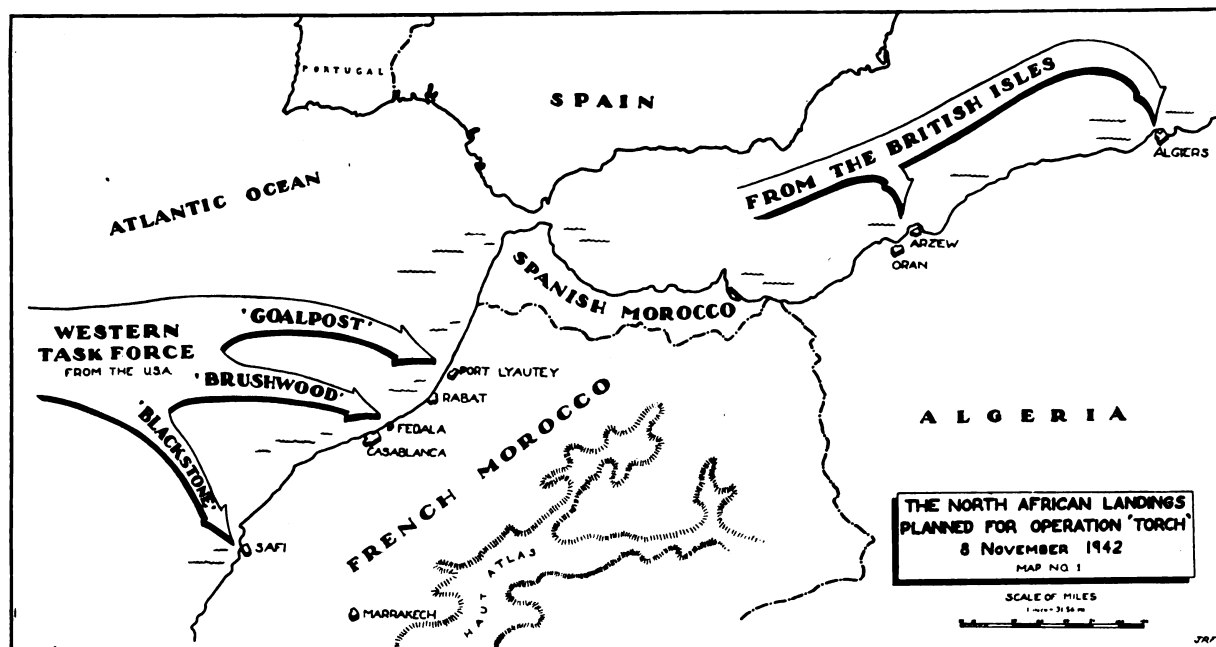
² FO No. 1. Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Camp Pickett, Va., 17 Oct. 1942.

Constituting Sub-Task Force "Brushwood" which was to land northeast of Fedala, French Morocco, on D-Day, H-Hour, to establish a beach-head and advance southwest to capture Fedala and Casablanca was the Third Infantry ("Rock of the Marne") Division, reinforced.

Plans of Major General Jonathan W. Anderson of the Third Infantry Division called for the Seventh Infantry plus attachments, designated as Regimental Landing Group 7, to play the major role in the landing of Sub-Task Force "Brushwood" by landing two battalion teams on Beaches Red 2, and Red 3, at H-Hour. Their missions were to advance inland, attack and seize the town of Fedala, French Morocco, from the east, as well as seize crossings over the Wadi Mellah. One rifle company of a third battalion landing team was to land at H-plus one hour, advance inland and seize a crossing of the Mediouna-Fedala Highway over the Wadi Mellah and the railroad crossing 1100 yards to the south. The 30th Infantry, as Regimental Landing Group 30, was to put two battalion landing teams ashore at H-Hour on the left of the Seventh Infantry on Beaches Blue, advance inland and capture hostile coastal defenses east of Wadi Nefikih. The 15th Infantry was to be initially in reserve and commence landing at H-plus two hours on

naissance flights over the Casablanca-Mediouna-Fedala area were to be made at daylight. The Naval air group was to be prepared to carry on bombing and strafing missions against enemy troops on roads or railroads approaching the beachhead as well as other targets on call.

Following receipt of the Third Infantry Division plans and orders, Colonel Robert C. Macon, commanding the Seventh Infantry, designated the First Battalion Landing Team commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore to land at Beach Red 2, on the right, at H-hour, advance inland, to attack and capture Fedala from the east. He also designated the Second Battalion Landing Team commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Rafael L. Salzman to land at H-hour on Beach Red 3, advance inland and seize the crossings over the Wadi Mellah. Major Eugene H. Cloud's Third Battalion Landing Team was to land Company "L" at Beach Yellow 2 at H-plus one hour, advance inland and seize the crossing of the Mediouna-Fedala Highway over the Wadi Mellah, and railroad crossings 1100 yards south of it. The remainder of the Regimental Landing Group was to land on the beaches on regimental order. The Third Reconnaissance Troop, to be transported in the same vessel with Company "L", was to land at Beach Yellow 2, advance inland, capture hostile installations in a golf course area and



beaches to be designated. It was then to assemble and be prepared to move on order. One combat team of the 2nd Armored Division and the Second Battalion 20th Combat Engineers were to land on order after H-plus three hours and assemble in the vicinity of Fedala. The 436th Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion was to land on order on a beach to be designated and provide anti-aircraft protection.

Naval fire support groups of an American fleet were to support the attack commencing at H-hour against illuminated searchlights without call and at daylight, on call from battalion landing teams, against defended areas, hostile formations, and routes of advance. Naval air groups were to attack enemy aircraft at the Casablanca (Gazes) Airport and in fields in the vicinity, as well as any enemy submarines in the Casablanca harbor. Recon-

assist the Seventh Infantry in capturing Fedala.

Supporting and attached units were assigned their missions. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, 10th Combat Engineer Battalion and the 756th Tank Battalion placed batteries and platoons with each landing team. The 443rd Coast Artillery Separate Battalion assigned batteries with each team and the 36th Combat Engineer Battalion attached shore parties to each group, as did the 3rd Medical Battalion.

The enemy situation for the entire operation did not appear too difficult to handle but there were some unknown factors which were puzzling. The known enemy, the German and Italian troops, were quite busy indeed in Libya, backtracking for Tunisia before the British Eighth Army. None were known to be in Algeria and French Morocco. But those places were French territories

which supported the French Colonial Army and off shore were powerful units of the French navy. What would the French army and navy do? Technically they were not our enemies but since the downfall of France in June, 1940, the government of "Unoccupied France" established itself in Vichy and collaborated extensively with the Nazis in power. The French people not yet under the German yoke were divided between the Vichy French and Free French. The commander-in-chief of all French forces in Africa, both army and navy, was Admiral Jean Darlan, a Vichy appointee. It therefore seemed likely that some fighting would result but no one knew how much. Would the French fight to the bitter end, offer only token resistance or let the Americans land unopposed?

The French Moroccan Army was most strongly concentrated in the vicinity of the port areas especially that of Fedala-Casablanca. Two battalions of Moroccan and Senegalese Infantry plus two troops of Spahi Cavalry and one battalion of 75mm French Artillery were located at Fedala. Fixed coastal defenses, consisting of four 138.6mm guns, two 75mm guns, four 100mm guns, and four large guns of unknown calibre, were northeast of Fedala. The French were known to have strong anti-aircraft defenses with 13.2mm, and 90mm guns with searchlights, and guns of other calibre. Systems of trenches were located along the coast and Cape Fedala. At Mediouna, twenty miles away from Fedala, was located a battalion of Moroccan Infantry that could be brought up in a day's time. At other places from twenty to one hundred miles from Fedala were troops that could be brought to the defense of Fedala and Casablanca within a short time.

Many French naval units were in Moroccan ports. At Casablanca were the battleship *Jean Bart*, two light cruisers, eight to ten destroyers, ten to twelve submarines, two motor torpedo boats and twelve navy fighter aircraft. It was estimated the French had an air arm consisting of seventy-four fighters, thirteen reconnaissance planes and eighty-one long range bombers at coastal air-dromes. Long range German bombers operating from French and Spanish Airfields could reinforce the defending air forces. It was expected that French defense would initially be air and naval attacks against the convoys and stubborn defense of Fedala-Casablanca.

The Fedala beaches are divided by rock and are each about one-half mile in length and subject to flanking fire from Cape Fedala. One thousand yards off shore the water is thirty feet in depth and the surf is heaviest between November and March. Port de Fedala is an artificial harbor built in the extreme west end of the Bay of Fedala. Fedala was, at the time of the invasion, the principal Moroccan port for oil and oil products and had a population of 2,500 Europeans and 13,000 natives. At the westward end of the town and projecting one thousand yards northward is the Cape of Fedala. The terrain between Fedala and Casablanca, sixteen miles to the southwest, is gently rolling and generally cultivated. The stream Wadi Mellah, west of Fedala, flows between deeply sloped banks. Northeast of the town is the stream Wadi Nefikih.

Following detailed study of the plans by responsible leaders, final preparations were made, and Regimental Landing Group 7 loaded on four transports in the Norfolk Navy Yard. The First Battalion Landing Team boarded the *U.S.S. Leonard Wood*, the Second Battalion Landing Team loaded on the *U.S.S. Thomas Jefferson*, the Third Battalion Team minus Company "L" stowed its gear on the *U.S.S. Joseph Hewes*. Company "L" and the 3rd Reconnaissance Troop boarded the *U.S.S. Tasker H. Bliss*. Anti-Tank Company, Cannon Company, Service Company and the 7th Infantry Band

were divided among the various landing teams for the crossing. The Personnel Section, some surplus transportation and a number of officers and men temporarily in the hospital remained behind, to join the regiment at a later date.

Steaming out of Norfolk Navy Yard 24 October 1942, the four vessels transporting Regimental Landing Group 7 joined the convoy comprising Sub-Task Force "Brushwood", which in turn as a part of the Western Task Force and the forces from the British Isles represented America's first sizeable offensive in World War II and was the largest amphibious force America had yet assembled. "Never before in history had so much firepower, so many well-armed soldiers, so much materiel of such great variety, such quantities of supplies, been assembled for an attack by sea against an enemy-held continent. The 700 ships carried 22,000,000 pounds of food, 38,000,000 pounds of clothing, 10,000,000 gallons of gasoline, more than 1,000,000 copies of 1,000 different maps. And big guns by the thousand, tanks and bull-dozers, tons and tons of ammunition."³

America had to do overnight, it seemed, what her enemies had taken years to do. The problems of mobilizing, equipping and training the huge forces that were necessary to defeat Germany, Italy and Japan had hardly begun when the forces for Operation "Torch" sped to their task of striking our first blow at the enemy in North Africa.

Confident in its leadership and in the ability of its troops, thoroughly schooled in every branch of amphibious warfare, the Seventh Infantry faced the future without misgivings. Equipment and weapons were modern and their efficiency proved by repeated testings. There was the general belief that the time of "Too little and too late" was past and the members of the Seventh Infantry were proud to be in the van of America's first sizeable attack against Axis forces.

Rough weather was encountered as the convoy followed a tortuous course across the heaving swells of the South Atlantic Ocean. On several occasions German submarines made futile attacks against the convoy but were driven off by powerful protecting naval and air forces.

Cruising time was put to good use as many soldiers received their first instruction in the Army's new rocket launcher, the Bazooka; aboard ship. Orientation lectures presented information as to African climate and the customs and languages of the people. It was emphasized that the French people were not our enemies and that one of our primary objectives in the forthcoming campaign was to strengthen the position of the fighting French units and to stimulate the resistance movement in France. The French were expected to capitulate when faced by a strong, aggressive attack.

All elements of Regimental Landing Group 7 were made familiar with the plan of action, the scheme of maneuver, and the objectives in detail. Orders were given that in the event of dispersal or lack of communication, units should proceed separately to their objectives.

Troops were to wear herringbone twill uniforms for the landing with each soldier displaying an American flag on his left arm. Because of the uncertainty of supply in the initial phase, each man was issued an individual reserve of one and one-third "K" rations to be carried on his person and one "C", one "D" and two-thirds "K" rations for each man were held in initial reserve. Two canteens of water and extra ammunition were to be carried. Orders were given that no rifles were to be fired before daylight, except on order of an officer. Bayonets were to be used to dispose of sentries.

³ Detzer, op cit., pp 40-41

At 2400, 7 November 1942, the ships of Sub-Task Force "Brushwood" anchored about nine miles off the coast of French Morocco, in the vicinity of Fedala Bay, and troops awaited H-hour which had initially been set for 0400 on 8 November, D-Day, but postponed to 0445 because of unavoidable delays. Shortly before that time recordings of a speech prepared by President Roosevelt were broadcast to North Africa. The prepared speech announced the landings about to occur and appealed to the French forces in Africa to join with the Americans and British to expel the enemy from the continent. Those who wished to co-operate were asked to stack their weapons and point searchlights into the sky. Contrary to the highest hopes, however, the troops were to meet opposition, though not too prolonged in some places.

THE LANDING AT FEDALA, FRENCH MOROCCO,

At 0445, 8 November 1942, the Seventh Infantry actively engaged in World War II. At that hour the first troops of the First and Second Battalions began landing northeast of Fedala. As the Poet Burns once said "the best laid plans a' mice an' men gang aft a-gley," so it was with the well laid plans of Colonel Robert C. Macon and his subordinate commanders.

Naval coxwains guiding the Higgins boats to the beaches were not familiar with the coast line and as a result in the black night, which was "darkest just before the dawn," very few, if any, of the boats in the first waves landed on their assigned beaches. Instead they crashed on coral reefs and rocky shores. Men were injured and drowned. Units were broken up and scattered to the winds. Much confusion existed and soon some of the assault troops drew enemy fire. Later on, while moving inland, assault troops were shelled by their own supporting naval guns as well as by French artillery. The Third Battalion Landing Team landed in daylight under machine gun and artillery fire. A few enemy planes strafed the troops. The operation was not executed too brilliantly but in spite of being put ashore in wrong places, and being shelled by their own navy, "Cotton Balers" turned the operation into a success through the determination and aggressiveness of individual members and groups.

FIRST BATTALION CAPTURES FEDALA AND THE CAPE

Company "A" which was to be landed on Beach Red 2 near Fedala, and to move inland between Rue Dela Fey and the beach to the Cold Storage Plant to capture the Point, was landed by the Navy east of Beach Red 2 on sharp coral rocks at about 0445. Some equipment was lost and the company became badly disorganized. Captain Albert Brown, the company commander, did not reach the shore in the first wave because of motor boat failure.

Company "C" commenced landing on the rocks left of Beach Red 2 at 0445. One boat of the first wave developed motor trouble and did not land until 0515 two hundred fifty yards from the beach. Coordination was difficult and the various platoons, operating independently, pushed on for the objectives in Fedala. The Second Platoon of Company "C" commanded by Second Lieutenant Clarence A. Potterfield, organized as left flank platoon in the first wave for the attack on Fedala, experienced difficulty in landing. Its boats crashed against coral rocks east of Beach Red 2. Private First Class Roy W. Wilson lost his life in the water during the landing. Second Lieutenant Potterfield and Sergeant

Glenn S. Foote literally pulled several men out of the water and rapidly organized the platoon for the advance on Fedala. The first friendly units that the platoon encountered were men from Company "A" but it succeeded in joining the company headquarters group on the Rue de Kasba and moved on toward Point Petain where Captain Herman E. Wagner was found reorganizing part of the company.

At about 0500 Private First Class Cecil C. Harrington of Company "A" prevented the Higgins boat in which he was riding from smashing against the dangerous reefs. He jumped overboard into water of unknown depth and with the aid of a rope held the craft from being smashed to pieces against the reefs while his comrades landed in safety.⁴

COMPANY "D" MEN DISPLAY GALLANTRY IN ACTION

Company "D" commanded by Captain Leroy A. Haselwood began crashing on a reef with the first waves at about 0500. Several boats were broken and part of the load of one had to be transferred to another. Two boats slid over the reef and moved on into the beach. Other boats backed off of the reef and later moved to the shore to debouch their loads. Due to the tireless efforts of the officers and men very little equipment was lost. Private First Class Perry Coburn and Private Reino Wayrynen displayed great courage and initiative during this action by recovering a 30 calibre machine gun from the water after their assault boat had struck the coral reef. After scrambling to safety they returned to the wrecked craft voluntarily, wading through deep water under heavy artillery fire. They secured a rope to the wrecked boat and searched the coral bed until the weapon was found and carried back to the shore.⁵

Private First Class Bert A. Rodman of Company "D" voluntarily recovered the machine gun and tripod belonging to his squad from its wrecked Higgins boat, which was beached on the rocks. The boat had sustained a damaged ramp and was filling rapidly with water. The men had landed without equipment and Private First Class Rodman returned twice through enemy fire to the wrecked boat to recover the equipment, wading approximately fifty yards through water over five feet deep.⁶

Second Lieutenant William Tolbert of Company "A" commanded the group in Boat Number 7 of the second wave which careened off one landing boat and hit a coral reef some distance off shore. The men crawled over the bow of the boat onto the rocks but before they could clear the rocks a searchlight from the point flashed skyward and then swept the beach. As the men scrambled for cover a machine gun from one of the landing boats farther up the beach fired on the light.

Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, commanding the First Battalion, landed with the third wave on the rocks east of Beach Red 2 at about 0530 and spent about thirty minutes climbing over rocks before level ground was reached. Lieutenant Colonel Moore encountered men from both Companies "A" and "C", his assault companies. Finding only one officer in the group, Lieutenant Nielson of Company "A", the Lieutenant Colonel placed him in temporary command of the Company "A" group

⁴ GO No. 7 HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Jan. '43. Pfc Harrington was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵ GO No. 11 HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pfc Coburn and Pvt. Wayrynen were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GO No. 11 HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pfc Rodman was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and a non-commissioned officer was placed in charge of the Company "C" men. He then sent scouts out to the front and a three or four man patrol to the left flank. The remainder of the two groups was ordered toward Fedala. First Lieutenant Robert W. Stephenson, the company executive officer, arrived and assumed command of Company "A" which proceeded on its mission. Enemy machine gun fire barely passed over the heads of the men as they moved behind the mask of a low ridge along the beach. Enemy artillery fire searched in the fields to the east. At about 0600 in early dawn as the company proceeded behind the mask, approximately a platoon of Senegalese soldiers were seen outlined against the sky. The two assault platoons of Company "A" hit the ground and allowed the Senegalese to come within seventy-five yards of their position. Lieutenant Tolbert went forward and induced the Senegalese, who had a 60mm pack mortar and a machine gun, besides small arms, to surrender.

The Intelligence Section of First Battalion Headquarters Company landed with the first wave under the command of First Lieutenant Roosevelt Plummer and eventually captured the Telephone and Telegraph Building in Fedala. Private First Class Everett P. Cardullo, of Headquarters Company First Battalion, alone and at the risk of his life halted and effected the surrender of a platoon of Senegalese soldiers while on a mission to the Telegraph office. The troops leveled their guns at Private Cardullo, but were commanded to lower them by their officer. Surrendering their arms, the Senegalese were then held captive by Private First Class Cardullo until he was relieved by an officer. Cardullo then proceeded on to a building where one squad of the Regimental Intelligence Section was held captive by the French. In conversing with the French, Private First Class Cardullo influenced them to release the captive Americans and return their arms and equipment.⁷

The Third Platoon of Company "C" commanded by Second Lieutenant Floyd L. Hardy entered Fedala at about dawn, stopped an enemy passenger car and a truck and captured nine German officers and men who were members of the German Armistice Commission that had fled from the Hotel Miramar. A detachment of the First Platoon and company headquarters moved rapidly forward ahead of the rest of the company and attempted to capture the coast artillery battery at the base of Cape Fedala as soon as possible. Firing positions were taken up about one hundred fifty yards from the battery and there was evidence that the position was going to surrender, when the Navy opened fire with heavy guns. After being subjected to about twenty minutes of the shelling the group withdrew to the balance of the company. Captain Herman E. Wagner then ran to the beach to try to get the Navy to stop shelling the Cape. During his absence the company was subjected to further shelling and suffered casualties. First Lieutenant Virgil W. Smith, Jr., second in command, withdrew the company from the shelled area only to receive machine gun and direct artillery fire from an anti-aircraft battery located at the west edge of the race track. As orders of the Battalion Commander had been for Company "C" to seize the race track before taking Fedala, First Lieutenant Smith launched an attack on the enemy positions. Slow but steady progress was made over the open ground against emplaced enemy machine guns. Second Lieutenant William Tilley commanding the First Platoon and Sergeant Alvin G. White of the Intelligence Section armed with a rocket launcher moved forward to eliminate the enemy machine guns. After several well placed shots were fired, the enemy put up a white flag. Second Lieutenant Tilley and Sergeant White got up and walked toward the enemy but almost immediately were fired upon and wounded. Enraged

members of Company "C" immediately opened fire with a heavy volume from all along the line inflicting casualties on the enemy. Sergeant Talmadge Miller went to the aid of Lieutenant Tilley and Sergeant White, who were mortally wounded. Without hesitation he crossed the open terrain in full view and under fire of the enemy.⁸ The enemy actually surrendered the position the second time. Staff Sergeant William K. Dieleman reorganized the First Platoon.

While this was going on the first squad of the Second Platoon of Company "C" under Sergeant James W. Cowling moved west of St. Jacques Church. Private First Class Bond fired his Browning automatic rifle down Rue de Foch upon an enemy machine gun at Point Pasteur. The squad was ordered to withdraw to Point Petain and in so doing spotted seven enemy soldiers constructing a rock position 150 yards west of the city hall. Sergeant Miller and Private Sanford crawled to within thirty yards of the enemy from the rear, and quickly covered and captured them.

Company "A" continued its advance toward Fedala encountering many armed Senegalese on the way, who offered however little resistance. Near the junction of Boulevard Moulay Youssef and Boulevard Moulay Ismael two enemy machine guns of approximately 50mm calibre, an anti-tank gun of 20mm calibre, and some 60mm pack mortars were destroyed. As dawn was breaking Company "A" reached the edge of Fedala where a company of Senegalese troops were quartered in some barracks. They were quickly captured and sent to the rear.

The First Platoon of Company "A" led by First Lieutenant Robert W. Stephenson and Second Lieutenant E. W. Staible surrounded the Miramar Hotel at 0730 and entered it without resistance. Papers and effects of lately departed Germans were found. At this time both the U. S. Naval batteries and enemy artillery placed heavy concentrations on Fedala with two direct hits scored on the Hotel Miramar. Heavy shells began falling on the troops east of the hotel. One of the concentrations killed Private William H. Marshall and a Senegalese soldier, besides wounding Corporal Charles J. Peters and Private Joseph G. Krumski. Much confusion resulted. The First Platoon became separated from the bulk of the company which managed to become located in some trenches just west of Casino Park.

At about 0900 that exciting morning Private Paul E. Bruns, also of Headquarters Company First Battalion, rescued a fellow soldier, whose legs had been rendered useless by enemy machine gun fire, from drowning in Fedala Bay. At the time Private Bruns was engaged in taking ammunition from the beach to the dumps. He was returning for another load when enemy machine guns from the Cape began firing on the beach. A soldier about twenty-five yards out in the water was hit in the legs and Private Bruns, went to the aid of the soldier and successfully brought him to the safety of the dunes on the beach.⁹

At 1000 Company "A" attempted to move forward again but was unsuccessful due to the heavy concentrations of naval, artillery and machine gun fire. At this time Private First Class Edwin S. Dowling, Jr., of Company "A", exposed himself to enemy machine gun fire to give aid to his wounded squad leader upon whom the

⁷ GO No. 11, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pfc. Cardullo was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸ GO No. 6, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 25 Jan. '43. Sgt. Miller was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹ GO No. 11, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pvt. Bruns was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

enemy was firing. His actions afforded the members of his squad the opportunity of outflanking and capturing the enemy who were only three hundred to four hundred yards distant and had excellent observation. This action reflected great credit on Private First Class Dowling.¹⁰

Company "B" commanded by Captain C. C. Crall, was the reserve company of the First Battalion, and had started crashing on the rocks at about 0525 in the third and succeeding waves. The platoons became separated. However Captain Crall organized as much of the company as possible and started moving it inland at 0545 sending security troops to Rond Point Lyautey, Road Junction No. 2 and the Railroad Station. At 1030 the company was disposed in the vicinity of the Market Place in Fedala protecting the rear of the First Battalion and preventing hostile forces from entering the town. The second platoon was sent forward to reinforce Company "C" and entered in a fight with French Marines on a patrol boat mounting a 75mm gun. The enemy were driven from the boat and retreated. Company "B" (less its Second Platoon) remained in its position during the rest of the day and night. The Second Platoon, following its successful attack on the French Marines, assaulted and captured a warehouse containing arms and equipment.

Also during the landing operations while enemy shell fire was being received, Private Alfred Bowles of Company "D" distinguished himself in action. He braved the enemy shell fire and rescued Corporal Thomas A. Rehak from the water into which he had fallen after debarking from a Higgins boat of the fourth wave. The front end of the boat was damaged when it collided with another craft about 800 yards from shore. The boat proceeded to shore and landed against a coral reef. Corporal Rehak was among the last to debark. As the corporal stepped over the side he slipped off the reef and fell into the water; he was weighted down with his equipment and ammunition and was in a perilous position between the reef and the boat which was being pounded by the waves. In the meantime Private Bowles had taken his equipment and 81mm mortar tube to the beach where the remainder of the company sought shelter. In the face of constant fire he returned to the damaged craft and alone assisted Corporal Rehak out of the water and onto the reef thereby saving the Corporal's life.¹¹

When Company "D" finally reached some degree of organization, sections of heavy machine guns were sent to the Rond Point Lyautey and Rond Point Petain to cover the left flank of the First Battalion and control the streets in the rear of the two assault companies. One platoon of heavy machine guns was attached to Company "B" for defense of the beachhead.

At 1030 the Second Platoon of Company "C", intact for the first time since leaving its transport, took its position on the left flank of the company which moved toward a large enemy encampment south of Casino Park. While the platoon moved on the left flank, across open terrain, a fifteen minute exchange of fire was carried on. At about 1120 an enemy civilian notified Lieutenant Potterfield that the garrison desired to surrender. Wishing to avoid casualties among his men he moved into the enemy lines unarmed, and without actual knowledge that they would surrender. This exceptional bravery brought success and the garrison of fifty men were influenced to capitulate, thus saving the lives of many men.¹² Terms were reached and the American flag was raised over the fortified area.

Captain Wagner in returning from the beach with a few men assumed his company was attacking the coast artillery batteries and moved toward the Cape. Private First Class John L. Cupka of Company "C" employing a rocket launcher for the first time, silenced a 100mm

coast artillery battery on Cape Fedala after advancing through hazardous terrain.¹³

Meanwhile our naval batteries engaged enemy shore batteries in a duel, with shells falling close to Captain Brown's stranded boat. Attracting the attention of a boat returning from the shore Captain Brown's group was towed back to the U.S.S. *Leonard Wood* but the second boat also developed engine trouble just as the transport was reached. Getting into a third Higgins boat the captain finally reached Beach Red 2 at 0930 and with his group headed for Company "A"'s objective. With about thirty men he succeeded in rejoining his company in the trenches near Casino Park at about 1100.

An enemy gun on Cape Fedala continued to inflict serious damage on our small landing craft and on the troops landing at Beach Blue, thereby threatening the entire operation. Lieutenant Colonel Moore ordered Company "A" in conjunction with four attached tanks which had landed about 0830 to attack at 1120 to silence the gun and seize the enemy's fire control station located in a building on a hill and protected by barbed wire. Company "A" attacked on schedule against small arms, automatic weapons and high trajectory fire and successfully passed through the town capturing the Cold Storage Plant and reaching the open field leading to the Cape. Firing positions were taken behind a wall and the company concentrated its fire on the control station. A mortar opened fire and scored a direct hit on the station. Staff Sergeant Robert A. Marvin of Company "A", led an attack which was successful in destroying an enemy machine gun nest. Leaving two men to deliver frontal fire on the position he went alone approximately one hundred yards to the flank, creeping over terrain which was exposed to enemy sniper fire, in order to get within sub-machine gun range of the emplacement. Lying behind a rock only large enough to protect part of his body he fired successive bursts on the enemy until the rounds in his clip were expended. A white flag was raised at the emplacement before he could reload his piece.¹⁴

Captain Brown stepped in front of his company, gave the order to fix bayonets and give assault fire with movement. He led his company across the open field as the enemy opened fire with all weapons. Private Frank D. Leppar of Company "A" distinguished himself during the action on Cape Fedala.¹⁵

Browning automatic riflemen protected men with wire cutters who made holes in the barbed wire for the riflemen to dash through. One tank moved forward to the front through the barbed wire but overturned when attempting to go up the slope of the hill. As the enemy fired from the upstairs windows of the fire control station, Company "A" closed in from all sides in the final assault, killing five enemy, taking twenty-two prisoners of war and capturing three coastal guns and a .50 calibre gun. Snipers were still active on the Cape and Company "A" sent out parties which eliminated them. At 1201 Second Lieutenant Joseph H. Reay called Company "A" to attention as Captain Brown raised the American flag over the fire control station. Lieutenant Colonel Moore

¹⁰ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Pfc Dowling was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹¹ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Pvt. Bowles was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² GO No. 32, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 26 Apr. '43. 2 Lt. Potterfield was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹³ GO No. 11, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pfc Cupka was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁴ GO No. 14, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 21 Feb. '43. S/Sgt. Marvin was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ GOs No. 2 & 32, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 8 Jan. & 26 Apr. '43. Capt. Brown & Pvt. Leppar were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

soon arrived at the control station and made plans for an attack at 1300, following a five minute 81mm. mortar concentration, to capture a small calibre battery known to be on the very tip of the Cape but not firing at that time. Company "A" with two tanks attached was assigned the mission. Because one tank became engaged with snipers in a building Company "A" did not attack at 1300 sharp. Captain Wagner of Company "C" with a number of his men arrived on the Cape and joined Company "A". Just as the two companies were about to start their attack a French civilian arrived and stated the enemy forces on the tip of the cape would surrender if given the rights of prisoners of war. Captain Brown went to the Cape's point and accepted the surrender of eighty enemy who piled up their arms and ammunition. At this time some American soldiers opened fire on the group but no casualties resulted. A guard arrived and took charge of the prisoners. Company "A" remained on Cape Fedala during the night of 8-9 November.

SECOND BATTALION LANDS OFF ITS COURSE AND CAPTURES FORT BLONDIN

The boat waves of the Second Battalion Landing Team were directed astray and became greatly dispersed on the way to assault assigned beaches. The first and second waves landed at points east of Mansouriah at 0530, five and more miles east of the assigned beach. The third wave landed off its course about four miles east of the assigned beach and six hundred yards east of the point on which Fort Blondin is situated. The remaining waves were distributed between Beach Blue 1 and Beach Red 3, which was the assigned beach.

With the surf high and the shores rough and rocky the landing boats could approach only one hundred yards off shore in some places. Landing was made in deep water under heavy fire from Fort Blondin which in turn was being shelled by the American naval support vessels. During the landing some casualties were suffered by drowning and gun fire. Sharp rocks made swimming and wading difficult, particularly with the heavy weight of the equipment and extra ammunition the members carried.

Companies "E" and "F" were the two assault companies of the battalion landing team which landed in the first two waves in the vicinity of the Mansouriah railroad station, in the zone of the 30th Infantry. The landing was against rough, rocky reefs and many boats became damaged. Once ashore, however, the companies encountered no opposition on the ground, and moved to the west abreast, along the one metre gauge railway tracks and seasonal road towards Fedala. During the approach march hostile planes strafed the troops but were driven off by massed rifle fire.

Company "G", with elements of Company "H", part of the Medical Detachment and the artillery liaison group landed with the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Rafael L. Salzman, in the third and fourth waves at several places, with only one group landing on the assigned Beach, Red 3.

During the landing when members of Company "H" were in danger of drowning, Staff Sergeant Carl P. Papanek rescued several men and their equipment, bringing them ashore through heavy surf and under heavy artillery fire from shore batteries. His actions saved not only the lives of several men, but also equipment essential to the continuation of the landing operations.¹⁶

The Battalion Commander, his executive officer; S-2; four rifle squads of Company "G"; one section of 81mm. mortars and one section of heavy machine guns from Company "H"; part of the medical detachment, communications section, and two civilian photographers

landed at about 0615 in the vicinity of Fort Blondin which was being shelled by Naval fire. It was necessary to withdraw from the immediate vicinity until the fire ceased.

It was at that time that other elements joined the group and were organized into one force. At 0730 the naval artillery barrage on Fort Blondin ceased, having



KILLED IN ACTION

Three of 15 "Cotton Balers" KIA on 8 Nov. 1942 during the Invasion of North Africa. Above, L. to R., Pfc. John H. Claxton, "M"; Chaplain Clement M. Falter, 3d Bn.; Left, 2 Lt. William M. Tilley, "C".



shelled the fort for one hour and a half. One artillery gun in the fort was still able to fire however, in addition to several machine guns and rifles.

Fort Blondin was not an assigned objective of the Second Battalion but had been assigned to the 30th Infantry. Receiving fire from the fort, Lieutenant Colonel Salzman decided military necessity warranted an attack on the fort by his forces.

The Battalion Commander seeing that the 30th Infantry, whose task it was to take the fort, were nowhere near the area of the fort, ordered an attack on the fort from the south and east. He took personal command of the attack.¹⁷

While mortar and machine gun fire were delivered east of the Fort and the enemy returned artillery and machine gun fire, Lieutenant Colonel Salzman personally led the four rifle squads from Company "G" in a flanking movement to the north and east. The flanking force came under heavy machine gun fire. The Second Battalion leader distinguished himself during action which eliminated the enemy weapon.¹⁸

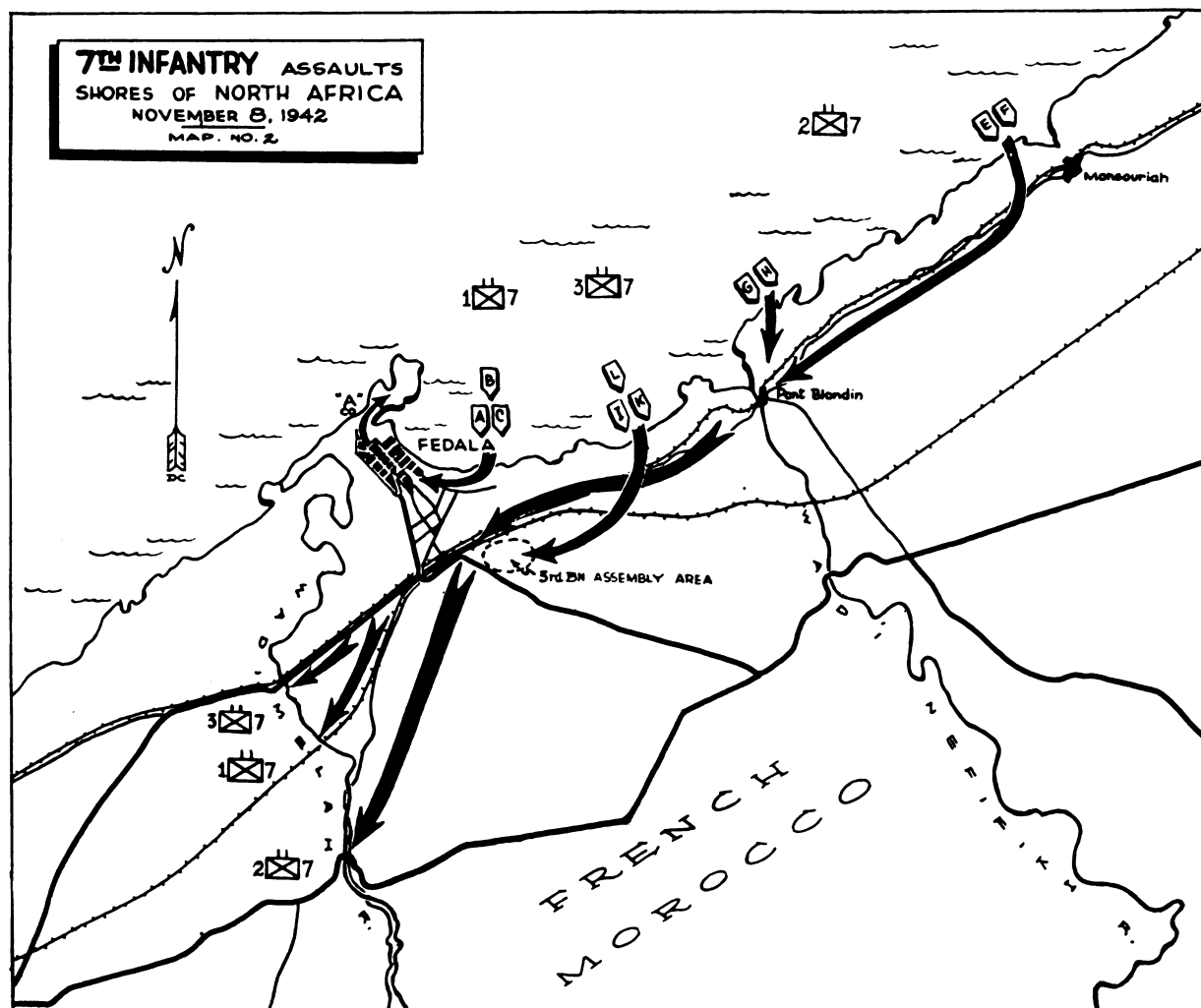
¹⁶ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. S/Sgt. Papanek was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ "Hist. of 2 Bn, 7th Inf., Norfolk-Casablanca Op." p. 1.

¹⁸ GO No. 13, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 20 Feb. '43. Lt. Col. Salzman was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

As the attacking riflemen were within two hundred yards of the Fort the last remaining artillery gun of the defenders was put out of action by a mortar round. Machine gun and rifle fire continued to be delivered at the attacking riflemen of Company "G" as they closed in rapidly, crawled through the barbed wire defenses and started into the enclosures. Several of the enemy had been killed and wounded, and the surviving forty quickly surrendered.

companies were landed far from their assigned zones and were to the rear of the Third Platoon, such a mission could not be performed. Second Lieutenant Perry J. Stockman knew that part of the battalion's objective was the railroad crossing over the Wadi Mellah. He accordingly led the Third Platoon toward that battalion objective. Joined by a section of machine guns from Company "H" under Lieutenant Tietze, the small detachment arrived at the crossing to find detachments of the enemy



The fort was taken after one of our mortars had put the remaining gun out of action and our fire had silenced some of the machine guns. The Battalion Commander was among the first to enter the fort and he received the surrender of the Commandant of Fort Blondin. After the Battalion Commander had received the surrender of the Commandant, the battalion commander of the 30th Infantry came up to the fort with some of his men. After having explained the situation, the Second Battalion Commander moved out of the fort and proceeded to his own objective. The resistance of the French was spirited and the action of the Second Battalion probably saved the 30th Infantry some heavy losses as the French only gave up when our elements were up to the barbed wire.¹⁹

The Third Platoon of Company "G", less one squad, landed on Beach Red 2. Its assigned mission was to gain contact with the First Battalion and protect the right rear of the right assault company. But because assault

guarding the western end. Aggressive action drove the enemy away and the group dug in, set up defensive positions and awaited the arrival of other friendly forces.

After leaving Fort Blondin, Lieutenant Colonel Salzman reported to the Regimental Command Post and then made a motor reconnaissance to, and beyond the Wadi Mellah. He found the two rifle squads of Company "G" under Second Lieutenant Stockman and the section of machine guns under Lieutenant Tietze covering the railroad bridge. The battalion commander continued his reconnaissance and located Companies "E" and "F" and brought them to the Wadi Mellah.

¹⁹ "Hist. of 2 Bn. 7th Inf." Op. cit. p. 2.

THIRD BATTALION FOLLOWS UP TO THE WADI MELLAH

The Third Battalion Landing Team less Company "L" under the command of Major Eugene H. Cloud also experienced much difficulty in landing. Delays occurred, due to a shortage of landing craft and many boats developed engine trouble. The biggest factor however was opposition from the enemy in the form of artillery and machine gun fire. The Third Battalion Landing Team was unable to follow up the First Battalion landing as rapidly as scheduled. On approaching Beach Red 2 the artillery and machine gun fire was so heavy that the Third Battalion Landing had to give up hope of landing there and was forced to use Beach Red 3. But opposition was encountered there and many casualties were suffered in the water and on the beach. Much equipment was lost and a great number of the landing craft were destroyed.

The Third Battalion Catholic Chaplain, First Lieutenant Clement M. Falter, attempted to aid a wounded soldier but was killed by enemy mortar fire.²⁰ The battalion commander received a slight shrapnel wound but continued on. After crossing the beach the Third Battalion occupied a field where deep ditches offered some protection from strafing enemy planes. An enemy plane dived and strafed Company "M".

Sergeant Amos J. Bemis of Company "K" performed admirably in rescuing Private Gerald R. Howard from the water off the reefs during the landing operations.²¹

Private Francis Slavik of the Medical Detachment remained on the beach to attend wounded soldiers when other personnel were moving across the beach and out of the danger zone as quickly as possible.²²

Company "L" and the 3rd Reconnaissance Troop which units were assigned the special mission of landing on Beach Yellow 2 at H and H-plus 60 to advance inland, secure the highway and railroad over the Wadi Mellah, and capture hostile installations in the golf course area, never did accomplish their mission. The *U.S.S. Tasker H. Bliss* which carried the special force became lost during the night and reached the transport area late. Company "L" did not leave the ship until 0705 in the morning. The advance to Beach Yellow 2 was made in the small boats during broad daylight and was continually subjected to intense artillery concentrations and .50 calibre machine gun fire when within range. Four separate attempts were made to land at Beach Yellow 2 but all attempts were without success. The naval ensign in command of the boats ordered them to return to the ship. Captain Mark L. Cory commanding Company "L" intervened and ordered the ensign to put the company ashore "somewhere," which was done at Beach Red 3 between 1115 and 1130, between artillery barrages. Rapidly clearing the beach the company reorganized in the cane brakes where it was strafed twice by enemy planes and suffered one casualty.

The Third Reconnaissance Troop did not land with Company "L" but returned to the *U.S.S. Tasker H. Bliss* after being in the Higgins boats for about seven hours. The Cavalry troops remained on the Bliss until 10 November when they landed. Company "L" joined the Third Battalion which moved on order to the Wadi Mellah and made secure the highway bridge on Route

Secondaire. No opposition was encountered during this movement. Outposts were set up and defenses prepared to repel any counter-attack.

COLONEL WILBUR WITH HELP OF CORPORAL FORBES PERFORMS MISSION OF VITAL IMPORTANCE

On the morning of 8 November 1942, Colonel William H. Wilbur, not a member of the Seventh Infantry, but with a mission of vital importance, came ashore in one of the boats of the First Battalion Landing Team. He carried letters signed by General Patton, Commanding General of the Western Task Force, and approved by the President of the United States, directed to the Commanding General of the Casablanca Division and to the Admiral commanding the French Fleet at Casablanca. The Colonel had an amphibious jeep especially equipped with a powerful radio and carried an American silk flag and a white flag two feet square. Corporal Sanford M. Forbes of Regimental Headquarters Company, with full knowledge of the great risk involved, had volunteered to drive the jeep and was with Colonel Wilbur. Upon landing, however, the amphibious jeep proved unequal to the task. When one of the successive waves landed a jeep it was commandeered by Colonel Wilbur who transferred the flags to the new jeep and started out for Casablanca with Corporal Forbes driving. Captain Jean Apler of the French Army was picked up in Fedala to act as a guide.

On the trip from Fedala to Casablanca many French elements were passed—groups of two or three French soldiers; one Spahi patrol; one battalion in close formation, without any security units however; as well as guarded road blocks. At one road block the officer in command ordered his Senegalese machine gunners to open fire on the group. Although the order was given three times it was never carried out by the soldiers as Colonel Wilbur also spoke to them in French. He told them the members of his group were Americans who had not come to fight the French but only the Germans. After a delay the jeep with its occupants sped on to Casablanca where some of the people cheered as they saw the American Flag. They drove to the Casablanca Division Headquarters where Colonel Wilbur was told by General Desre and Admiral Ronarch of the French that they had no authority to treat with anyone, and that Admiral Michelier at the Admiralty was in command. Leaving a copy of his letters Colonel Wilbur left and was driven to the Admiralty by Corporal Forbes, guided by Captain Apler, while bombs and shells began to fall in Casablanca, and French anti-aircraft guns fired heavy barrages.

Colonel Wilbur's efforts at the Admiralty met with little success as he was not permitted to see Admiral Michelier or have his letters presented, and finally was told to get out. Returning from the Admiralty along the water front, shells and bombs landed very close to the jeep. Some French sailors with very threatening attitudes were met, so Corporal Forbes increased the speed of the jeep. The return trip from Casablanca to Fedala was made at a high speed. Reporting in at Third Division Headquarters Colonel Wilbur sent the following radio message to General Patton:

Letter to the commanding General Casablanca Division has been delivered to him. I went to the Admiralty in Casablanca, but Admiral Michelier refused to receive me. The French Army does not want to fight. I will report to you on the *Augusta*.

Corporal Forbes then drove Colonel Wilbur toward the beach where the Colonel intended to find a boat which would take him to the *U.S.S. Augusta*. They

²⁰ 1 Lt. Falter was born at Landeck, Ohio, 6 Oct. 1904. He was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on 3 May 1930 and served as a professor at St. Joseph's College in Indiana from 1932 to 1942.

²¹ GO No. 2, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 8 Jan. '43. Sgt. Bemis was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²² GO No. 2, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 8 Jan. '43. Pvt. Slavik was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

came upon the light tanks of the Second Platoon of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, which had landed at about 0830 under fire from coast defense guns located on and near Cape Fedala. While the water-proofing was being taken off the tanks, Second Lieutenant John M. Rutledge, in command of the platoon, and Sergeant Ames, had returned to the beach to locate the position of the enemy guns which were firing on the beach. They located some French 75mm guns near the oil tanks in the Port de Fedala. They returned to the tanks shortly after Colonel Wilbur arrived. The two officers talked of the necessity of going into immediate action against the guns. Though the First Platoon of tanks had been assigned the mission of supporting the First Battalion in Fedala and on the Cape they had not yet landed.

Colonel Wilbur commandeered the platoon of Second Lieutenant Rutledge which had been reduced to four available tanks at that time because one had gone astray after landing. Riding on the outside of Second Lieutenant Rutledge's tank, Colonel Wilbur directed the vehicles toward Fedala and encountered Colonel Robert C. Macon who did not object to Colonel Wilbur's riding into Fedala with the tanks but did object to any plans he might have entertained in regard to directing the fight and reminded him that Lieutenant Colonel Moore was in command of the operations in Fedala and that the tanks were to be used in accordance with Lieutenant Colonel Moore's plans. The tanks moved on into Fedala where the First Battalion commander was met and arrangements were made for the tanks to join Company "A" in the attack. One tank became "shorted" out. The remaining three took up defiladed positions behind an hedge and fired on enemy positions. The gun triggers of weapons on another tank went out of action. One tank however eventually crashed in the barbed wire barricade before the control station, but, as previously mentioned overturned.

For performance of his mission to Casablanca and his participation in the battle of Fedala, Colonel Wilbur, on commendation of higher authority, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. For his bravery in driving Colonel Wilbur through the occupied enemy country and for later driving the unarmored jeep toward the enemy battery on Cape Fedala Corporal Forbes was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, which was the first award of that medal to a "Cotton Baler" during World War II.²³

SECOND AND THIRD BATTALIONS ADVANCE BEYOND THE WADI MELLAH TOWARD CASABLANCA—9 NOVEMBER 1942

At 1600 on 8 November Colonel Robert C. Macon reported to Major General J. W. Anderson at Third Division Headquarters in Fedala and received orders from him to advance the Seventh Infantry to a line south of the Wadi Mellah. He returned to his command post and issued orders for a meeting of unit commanders at the Second Battalion Command Post for 1900. Accompanied by the Regimental S-3, Captain William B. Rosson, Colonel Macon arrived at the Second Battalion Command Post at the appointed time and issued orders for an advance that night by the Second and Third Battalions to a line approximately two miles southwest of the Wadi Mellah, which line would serve as a line of departure for the continuation of the advance, beginning at 0730, 9 November. The First Battalion was to remain in Fedala and on the Cape during the night guarding the vital installations. As soon as relief could be affected by the Second Battalion of the 20th Engineers the First

Battalion was to assemble south of the Wadi Mellah to the rear of the two assault battalions and remain in reserve.

At 1730 an enemy plane attempted to strafe the Second Battalion troops and appeared over the high ground to their rear. A well-placed burst of fire from an anti-aircraft gun manned by Staff Sergeant Haywood M. Wolfen, of a Cannon Company platoon, was seen to hit the plane. A dense column of black smoke emerged from the rear of the enemy craft, which was seen to lose altitude rapidly, disappearing in the wooded slopes beyond the Wadi Mellah. No one doubted that the plane had been destroyed. During the hours of darkness the Second and Third Battalions crossed the Wadi Mellah. The Third Battalion closed into its area at 0130. Beginning at 0130 the Regimental Command Post was moved to a location approximately twelve hundred yards southwest of Si Bu Lanouar, and about one thousand yards behind the front lines.

During the day and night elements of the Regimental Landing Group had continued to land and by 2000 the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, most of the tanks and Cannon Company were ashore. One section of Anti-Tank Company consisting of two mine squads, a platoon of headquarters group, and one gun squad with a one-half ton weapons carrier spent about ten hours in the bay in a landing boat and was not landed at Beach Red 2 until 2300. The troops got little rest or comfort during the night. Clothes were still wet from the landing operations. The chilly wind that swept in from the ocean caused much shivering and sleep was impossible without blankets. Nevertheless the morale of the troops was at a high level.

The advance of the assault battalions on the morning of 9 November, started as scheduled with the Third Battalion on the right and the Second Battalion on the left. Company "D" reinforced the Third Battalion for the purpose of supporting the left assaulting company and filling any gaps that might occur between the two attacking battalions. Companies "I" and "L" made up the attacking forces for the Third Battalion with "L" on the right. Immediately on crossing the line of departure Company "I" received small arms and machine gun fire, and was in contact with enemy forces throughout the day. Company "I" commanded by Captain Clarence H. White, Jr., progressed rapidly, nevertheless, by advancing one platoon and then another. Each platoon assisted the other's advance by flanking fire while mortars and light machine guns supported the riflemen. On one occasion Sergeant Earl J. McCarry's squad was suddenly trapped by Spahi cavalymen. The sergeant displayed courage and assured the safety and proper deployment of his men. He then inspired an attack which caused the enemy to withdraw.²⁴

Early in the afternoon Corporal Clyde R. Lynch, of Company "I" distinguished himself as a leader by leading his machine gun squad into position near the enemy lines. He exposed himself to the enemy so that he might spot the enemy machine gun positions. This action resulted in the destruction of two enemy machine gun crews and their protecting riflemen which were holding the advance of the right flank platoon.²⁵ Company "L" advanced along Route Secondaire and encountered only delaying actions by mounted Spahi Troops.

The Second Battalion crossed the line of departure with Company "E" on the right, Company "F" on the left and Company "G" in reserve. Wide dispersion was

²³ For authority see GO 19 Allied Forces Hqrs., 23 Nov. 1942.

²⁴ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Sgt. McCarry was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁵ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Cpl. Lynch was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

7TH INFANTRY ADVANCES BEYOND THE WADI MELAH TOWARD CASABLANCA
NOVEMBER 8, 1942
 MAP NO. 5

LD 0790

FEDALA

BN TASSY AREA

BN TASSY AREA

S.E. MOUASSA

LD 0730

ADVANCE HALTED BY ORDER BRD DIVISION

formation of the forward elements of that regiment which was still to the left and rear of the Seventh Infantry.

The First Battalion, which had been relieved of guarding installations in Fedala by the Second Battalion 20th Engineers during the evening of 8 November, had remained in Fedala and on the Cape during the night. Early in the morning of 9 November, it marched without incident, except for one low-flying Italian plane which flew over the battalion and was fired upon, to an area about one and a half miles in rear of the front lines near the boundary of the forward battalions and assembled in regimental reserve.

7th INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK

10 NOVEMBER 1942

Battalion commanders assembled at the Second Battalion Command Post during the night and received orders from Colonel Macon to continue the advance at midnight to a coordinating line on the outskirts of Casablanca from which an attack would be launched at 0730 10 November. The advance of the assault battalions started as ordered at 0001, 10 November. During the approach march the battalions came under interdicting artillery fire.

SECOND BATTALION CAPTURES BEAULIEU-AIN-SEBA IN HARD FIGHT

The Second Battalion moved out in a column of companies with Company "E", under the command of Captain John C. Casteel, as advance guard. Companies "F", "G", and "H" followed in order. Men of the heavy weapons company became quite fatigued during the march burdened with the weight of their weapons. Their condition and experiences of that night are best told in the official report and is quoted verbatim.

This time in column of companies, at 0001 of the 10th November Company "H" was again on the move; tired men shifted their loads and groaned very quietly; the silence in which the battalion moved was worthy of real veterans; and the knowledge that we were approaching the objective, with the probability of real action and, incidentally, expending a good part of all that heavy ammunition we had been carrying since early morning of the 8th, encouraged every one.

Tired legs stretched out, bent backs straightened, deep breaths could be heard; and across the Bled (open) country toward Casablanca marched the battalion. After a while we were on the smooth pavement of a highway.

In the darkness of that night, with a thin rain coming down persistently, and a chill wind that penetrated to the very bones, no man could appreciate the smooth walking of a surfaced road, after all that stumbling, shuffling, sinking, on plowed fields, and climbing walls and fences.

All the length of the column, long as it was, and wide, no sound could be heard other than a low rustling of shoe leather meeting asphalt, but off the front and to right and left, hundreds of dogs howled a continuous alert, keeping up with the column, never quite dying down, gaining in volume occasionally.

Periodically, almost monotonously, the batteries of Ain El Diab roared, accompanied by a great flash. The rush of wind and the scream of shells passed over our heads. After a while the men forgot to duck. That instinctive shrinking of heads into shoulders had not been due to fear but to unfamiliarity with the sound.

Now, from time to time, a new noise could be heard; a man would stumble, fall forward on his face, get up, and try to pick up his load again, but though the spirit was strong, endurance had reached its limit. This was particularly true in this company. Heavy machine guns and the corresponding load of ammunition, heavy mortars and their heavy shells, were never meant to be man-carried day after day, night after night, by soldiers who had their own heavy equipment to carry, and their own individual weapons.

They kept up, and they fell, not once, but many times, on that march to Ain Sebah, and always they got up again and walked some more, and were grateful for the rests that had to come more and more frequently now.

We had reached Ain Sebah, and it was still at least one hour before daylight; we were in the midst of houses, walled gardens, factories, and toward the front as well as on all side, a few yards away, complete darkness. Suddenly the formation halted: up ahead, a good distance to the front, there was gun fire; a few shots and then the sound of exploding grenades; soon the firing increased in volume, machine guns joining rifles.

The company extended to right and left and small units sought cover for themselves and weapons; there was no possibility of their employment before daylight, and in that respect the enemy had all the advantage; for it soon was evident that they were firing on predetermined lines and when their artillery joined in the chorus, which it did very quickly, it was also evident that here the enemy was making his real stand, and that we had in front of us a very strong position, amply supported by artillery not only of 75mm, but by the sound, of even heavier calibre. Preparations were made for immediate employment of the heavy weapons at daylight.²⁶

At about 0430 the Second Battalion encountered the enemy. The First Platoon of Company "E", making up the point and advance party of the column, was at the edge of Beaulieu-Ain-Seba and reported obstacles and enemy activity to the front. From the right front came scattered rifle fire and soon afterward fire from small calibre cannon. The troops had orders not to fire rifles or machine guns before daylight but to fight with hand grenades, bayonets and knives in order to prevent confusion and unnecessary casualties on their own units. The advance party encountered a road block composed of overturned ore cars and defended by rifle and automatic weapons fire. Fire from heavier calibre weapons and increasing small arms and machine gun fire was received from the left front. The battalion commander who had been marching with the advance party ordered Company "E" to remain in position, seek cover and wait for daylight while Company "F" could be brought abreast of "E" on the left. Then with support of heavy weapons an assault would be made. At about 0450 enemy artillery and mortar fire began to fall on the battalion. Captain John C. Casteel of Company "F" was killed and numerous other casualties resulted.

The forward elements had passed a quarry and cement factory. The enemy fire came from the right front and the right rear. In the darkness the men could see nothing to fire at as the enemy were well dug in. The enemy artillery increased but was not too accurate. The battalion commander organized Company "H" and elements of the three rifle companies in the quarry and moved them out at 0555 as in five minutes time the American Navy was scheduled to shell the quarry which was an enemy marine ammunition depot. As the troops moved to the left for a hill shells began to fall in the quarry area.

With the coming of daylight the two assault platoons of Company "F" found firing positions and prepared to assault the enemy. From the left front of Company "E" a battery of 75mm artillery guns fired in the company at a point blank range of three hundred yards. In the first minutes of daylight the battery was located and rifle fire placed upon it. Then Captain Lambert J. Hruska led the first two platoons in an attack on the artillery position. The assault was made over a distance of about seventy-five yards through direct fire of small arms and the fire of land and naval artillery. Private First Class Kurt Steenback and other riflemen closed in to hand grenade range and silenced the battery. First Lieutenant William M. Cheever, leader of the first platoon, was killed during this action and Captain Hruska wounded. Later on Private First Class Steenback voluntarily carried a message through the shelled area to his battalion commander calling for artillery support. Open terrain was crossed under enemy machine gun and rifle fire.²⁷

During the morning two enemy warships, apparently light cruisers or destroyers, about two miles off shore fired rapidly into Seventh Infantry zones of action.

Daylight came, and with it a new sound; that of naval guns, which for a while we thought was our own naval gun fire support; two small warships could be seen close off shore, and they were firing fast . . . but their shells came closer and closer to us; they couldn't be ours . . . and they were not. They were enemy warships, adding to the already preponderant artillery fire which the enemy was delivering on us. The thought came to us: "Where, then, are our ships, and the naval concentrations against Ain Sebah?"²⁸

Lieutenant Colonel Salzman made heroic efforts and was greatly assisted by Captain Gilbert C. St. Clair of Company "H" and Second Lieutenant Perry J. Stockman of Company "G" in the execution of the flanking movement and advance to the left against the strong enemy resistance to the high ground near Route 106. Captain St. Clair refused evacuation for treatment of a head wound and continued to lead his company in action. Second Lieutenant Stockman displayed resourcefulness and coolness under the heavy fire and steadied the troops by his example. He assisted in the destruction or silencing of several enemy machine guns that had been firing against his unit.²⁹ The flanking troops moved farther to the left

. . . but from the high ground south of Ferme de La Jonquiere there came suddenly heavy machine gun fire directed at us; two men were wounded by this fire. But this high ground should have been occupied by the 15th Infantry which was to be on our left, eventually it was found that it was not the 15th Infantry, but the enemy, who had installed a number of machine guns, but a long time was wasted in establishing their identity before placing fire on them.³⁰

During the morning of 10 November any movement of vehicles or tanks, was signaled to the enemy by Arabs or spotters. It was believed that the Arabs must have been informed of intended artillery barrages because when the artillery fell there were no natives about, and when conditions were quiet, many Arabs appeared on the road or ran up and down the terrain.

During that dark morning of 10 November 1942, First Lieutenant Perry E. Rowe, Second Battalion Surgeon, located the Battalion Aid Station in an apparently sheltered position and gave medical attention to the wounded. With daylight it was discovered that the location of the Aid Station was very close to the enemy lines, and it came under fire of enemy artillery and small arms. Under trying conditions he treated many wounded and performed emergency operations which undoubtedly saved many lives.³¹

During a temporary cessation of the advance that morning four soldiers of Company "F" and one from the Medical Detachment volunteered to rescue a number of wounded comrades who had fallen well within the enemy lines. On the return trip with the wounded it was necessary for them to defend themselves, against machine gun and rifle fire aimed directly at them. These men made the forward and return journey under constant heavy artillery, machine gun and rifle fire. The conduct of Sergeant Raymond Kotz, Private First Class Raymond Cruz, Private First Class Gordon Shook and Private William Hemmenway of Company "F" with Private Peter Gettman of the Medical Detachment served as an example and inspiration to others of the battalion

²⁶ "Hist. of Co. 'H', 7th Inf., Fedala-Casablanca Op., 9-11 Nov. '42'."

²⁷ GOs No. 14 & 18, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 30 Dec. '42 & 24 Feb. '43. Capt. Hruska & Pfc. Steenback were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁸ "Hist. of Co. 'G', 7th Inf., Fedala-Casablanca Op. 9-11 Nov. '42'."

²⁹ GOs No. 2 & 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42 & 8 Jan. '43. Capt. St. Clair & 2 Lt. Stockman were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁰ "Hist. of Co. 'H', 7th Inf., Fedala-Casablanca Op. 9-11 Nov. '42'."

³¹ GO No. 23, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 18 Mar. '43. 1 Lt. Rowe was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and reflected great credit upon themselves and their unit.³²

Private Anthony J. Sporacio also of the Medical Detachment distinguished himself at Beaulieu-Ain-Seba by remaining in an exposed position under heavy artillery and small arms fire to take care of several wounded soldiers who could not be evacuated, until the position was cleared of the enemy. His devoted action undoubtedly saved the lives of several of the wounded.³³

First Lieutenant George D. McClelland, Chaplain with the Second Battalion, Private First Class William C. Strickler of Company "E", and Private John H. Martinez of the Medical Detachment ministered to the wounded while under heavy fire.³⁴

THIRD BATTALION REMAINS IN CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY THROUGHOUT THE DAY

The Third Battalion attacked with Company "I" on the left and Company "L" on the right and had advanced about two kilometers when a gap developed between the two companies. Company "K" was committed in the center. Heavy artillery fire was received by the battalion at this time. Company "L" reinforced with a section of 37mm Anti-Tank guns, one section of heavy machine guns from Company "M" and two half-tracks moved forward along the coast road, Route Secondaire, to the vicinity of Point Oukacha. Scouts discovered an enemy position defended by two French rifle companies reinforced with heavy weapons. The company occupied the crest of the only available high ground and a battle ensued until 0300 on 11 November. The First Platoon was sent to the right flank to clear and secure a phosphate factory and other buildings. An enemy cruiser subjected the company to naval gun fire for about a half hour until driven off by friendly aircraft.

PRIVATE BRAY DISPLAYS EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM

Private William H. Bray of Company "L" performed extraordinary heroism against the enemy. Of his own volition and without command, he disregarded his personal safety and advanced under fire to a position where he could obtain vital information concerning the nature and source of the enemy fire that had his entire platoon pinned to the ground. Upon obtaining this information he left the safety of his position to return to his unit and received four severe wounds. In spite of his wounds he attempted to crawl back to inform his platoon leader of what he had learned of the enemy positions. He died later the same day. Such courage and devotion to duty were a profound inspiration to the members of his unit and reflected great credit upon himself and the military service. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³⁵

Company "L" remained in contact with the enemy until 0300, 11 November, when the French bugles sounded retreat and the enemy withdrew. During the action of Company "L" Sergeant Charles R. Argo and Private First Class Clifton E. Whitley displayed gallantry in action.³⁶

At 1430, 10 November, Captain Marcus D. Biggers of Company "K" ordered the Third Platoon of his company, with one platoon of Company "I", supported by the Weapons Platoon of Company "K" to attack the Mobile Marine Base. The attack was successful and resulted in the capture of sixty prisoners of war, a battery of four 90mm pieces and two anti-aircraft emplacements. One machine gun nest was knocked out by the Third Platoon.

At about 2100 Corporal Clyde M. Conn of Company "K" left his slit trench to answer the call of a wounded soldier who was about fifty yards to the front of his position. It was a clear night when he left his defensive position in open terrain. He went forward into direct enemy fire and carried the wounded soldier to safety and medical aid.³⁷



KILLED IN ACTION

Capt. John C. Casteel, "F", and Pvt. Laverne F. Roberts, "M", 2 of 26 "Cotton Balers" KIA on 10 Nov. 1942 during the fighting for Casablanca.

During the evening of 10 November Staff Sergeant Frank Sobolewski of Company "K" placed an automatic rifle on top of a building which was being strafed by enemy rifle fire, and covered movements of the entire weapons platoon that was being strafed by enemy machine gun fire. Staff Sergeant Sobolewski's fire put an enemy machine gun out of action which enabled his platoon to move to another position.³⁸

FIRST BATTALION ATTACKS CAMP DE LA JONQUIERE

As no report had been received at the Regimental Command Post from the Second Battalion, Colonel Macon took Lieutenant Colonel Moore and Captain Rosson at 0830, 10 November on a reconnaissance to determine the situation in the Second Battalion's area. The reconnaissance disclosed that the Second Battalion was not in its assigned zone of action, and that the forward elements of the 15th Infantry were not sufficiently advanced to protect the left flank of the Regiment. Colonel Macon directed Lieutenant Colonel Moore to attack with his battalion in the zone formerly assigned to the Second Battalion and capture the objective in Casablanca which was the dock

³² GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Sgt. Kotz, Pfc. Cruz, Pfc. Shook, Pvt. Gettman & Pvt. Hemenway were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³³ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Pvt. Sporacio was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 2 Feb. '43. 1 Lt. McClelland, Pfc. Strickler & Pvt. Martinez were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁵ For authority see GO No. 33, HQ US 5th Army 24 Mar. '43.

³⁶ GOs No. 8 & 14, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 30 Dec. '42 & 2 Feb. '43. Sgt. Argo & Pfc. Whitley were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁷ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. Cpl. Conn was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁸ GO No. 8, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 28 Nov. '42. S/Sgt. Sobolewski was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

area. However about thirty minutes later the objective was changed and limited to the Camp De la Jonquiere which was on the edge of the more heavily populated part of the city. Deeming it necessary to make an additional reconnaissance in the zone of action of the left battalion, the Regimental Commander took fifteen tanks that became available and riding in the lead tank, with Captain Rosson in the second, reconnoitered the hostile front line positions. In the vicinity of A El Bouirel the party was subjected to a heavy concentration of artillery fire. The group continued and located the Second Battalion whereupon the Regimental Commander got out of the tank and continued his reconnaissance on foot to the top of a ridge where a second artillery concentration was directed at the group making it necessary for the members to take cover. Learning of the difficulties the Second Battalion had encountered and the exhausted condition of the men, that battalion was ordered to hold its position and reorganize.³⁹

The First Battalion attacked at 1045 with Company "B" on the right, Company "C" on the left. The advance was met with artillery fire and Company "B" drew ahead of "C" whereupon the company held until "C" was able to move up. The company commanders, Captains Crall and Wagner, conferred with each other and plans were made for a coordinated attack. The first platoon on the right of Company "B" was taken under enemy machine gun and rifle fire and moved forward behind a knoll. The objective was but eight hundred yards distant. At this time the entire company was subjected to a devastating mortar and artillery barrage.

Advance elements of Company "C" reached a thirty-foot cliff, about five hundred yards from the enemy positions, where the company was reorganized. Corporal Alton J. McDermid, of Company "C", scaled the cliff in order that he might observe and reconnoiter. While subjected to observed fire in his position Corporal McDermid directed the fire of the mortar squad, which action resulted in the silencing of an enemy machine gun nest and allowed the company to advance.⁴⁰

The Second Platoon of Company "C" was sent to the left flank to cover the enemy with fire while the balance of the company maneuvered and attacked over bare level terrain against direct artillery and machine gun fire.

The Third Platoon of Company "B" entered a walled estate and was later joined by part of "C" Company. The fight was continued with the enemy in the barracks throughout the afternoon. The 60mm mortar section went into action and set fire to a hay stack on the right flank which contained an enemy machine gun that was firing on the First Platoon. The light machine gun of the Third Platoon engaged an enemy gun located in an unfinished, steel-girded building one thousand yards to the right flank. A messenger was sent back to find the battalion headquarters with the request to send tanks or place artillery fire on the enemy mortars and artillery. The Second Platoon, echeloned to the right rear to cover the exposed flank, was forced to withdraw by the heavy artillery fire but moved in good order around a low hill. The force in the walled estate was under constant heavy fire from the enemy but remained there throughout the day.

Sergeant Frederick T. Bear of the First Platoon, Company "C", voluntarily advanced beyond the front lines across the open terrain through the machine gun and artillery fire in an attempt to silence an enemy machine gun. Sergeant Bear's rifle was shot out of his hand but upon recovering it he continued his one man advance toward the machine gun nest. One of our own mortars silenced the gun before he could reach it.⁴¹

The problem of communication between platoons and elements of the company was critical. Private First

Class Vernon C. Perry of Company "C" displayed great courage and tireless effort under the constant fire in conveying valuable information to the various units. He moved on several occasions among exploding shells and machine gun fire over terrain that was devoid of cover.⁴²

At dusk the "B" Company Commander with the communication sergeant and a messenger moved out of the walled estate and re-organized his units during the night. All around defenses were set up with the men using their helmets and hands to dig fox holes in the open flat terrain. A platoon of Company "D" joined Company "B" at 2230. The enemy fired spasmodic machine gun fire until shortly after midnight and snipers were active. Company "C" held its positions during the night. A critical shortage of mortar and machine gun ammunition existed in both the assault companies.

During the day Private First Class George Meyers of Company "C" showed initiative and bravery to facilitate a continuous flow of supplies to the assault troops of his company. He drove a loaded ammunition truck and trailer through the hazardous territory to within 300 yards of the final advance. The company had advanced one and one-half miles over the rocky flat terrain. He drove his vehicle from the rear line to the forward position in the face of a rolling artillery barrage and fire from snipers. His action greatly encouraged the troops in intensifying their efforts.⁴³

Tanks supporting the First Battalion had run out of fuel and were unable to support the forward companies during the attack. At 1600 the regimental commander called the naval dive bombers to attack an hostile battery in the dock area of Casablanca. In about twenty minutes dive bombers attacked but failed to silence the battery. A second request was made and another attack by the bombers completely silenced the battery.

At 2200, 10 November, Colonel Macon issued orders to the unit commanders to resume the attack on Casablanca in the morning, at 0700, following preparations by dive bombers and artillery. The 7th Infantry was to make the main effort with its three battalions abreast supported by Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Cannon Company. Anti-Tank Company was to constitute the reserve. It was to be an all-out attack. Major Cloud was placed under the care of the battalion surgeon and Captain Carroll A. Plaquet was placed in temporary command of the Third Battalion.

7th INFANTRY ENTERS CASABLANCA TRIUMPHANTLY 11 NOVEMBER 1942

At 0500 November 11, Captain Plaquet appeared at the Regimental Command Post with a French major, Commandant Govin, and members of his staff. Commandant Govin stated that he had received orders directing him to cease firing upon our troops. Colonel Macon told him that the Seventh Infantry was entering Casablanca at dawn, and that if the French intended not to fire they should assemble their units, stack arms and be prepared to turn over their ammunition as our troops should advance. Commandant Govin agreed to those

³⁹ GO No. 1, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 4 Jan. '43. Col. Macon was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁰ GO No. 23, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 18 Mar. '43. Cpl. McDermid was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴¹ GO No. 11, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Sgt. Bear was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴² GO No. 4, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 20 Jan. '43. Pfc. Perry was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

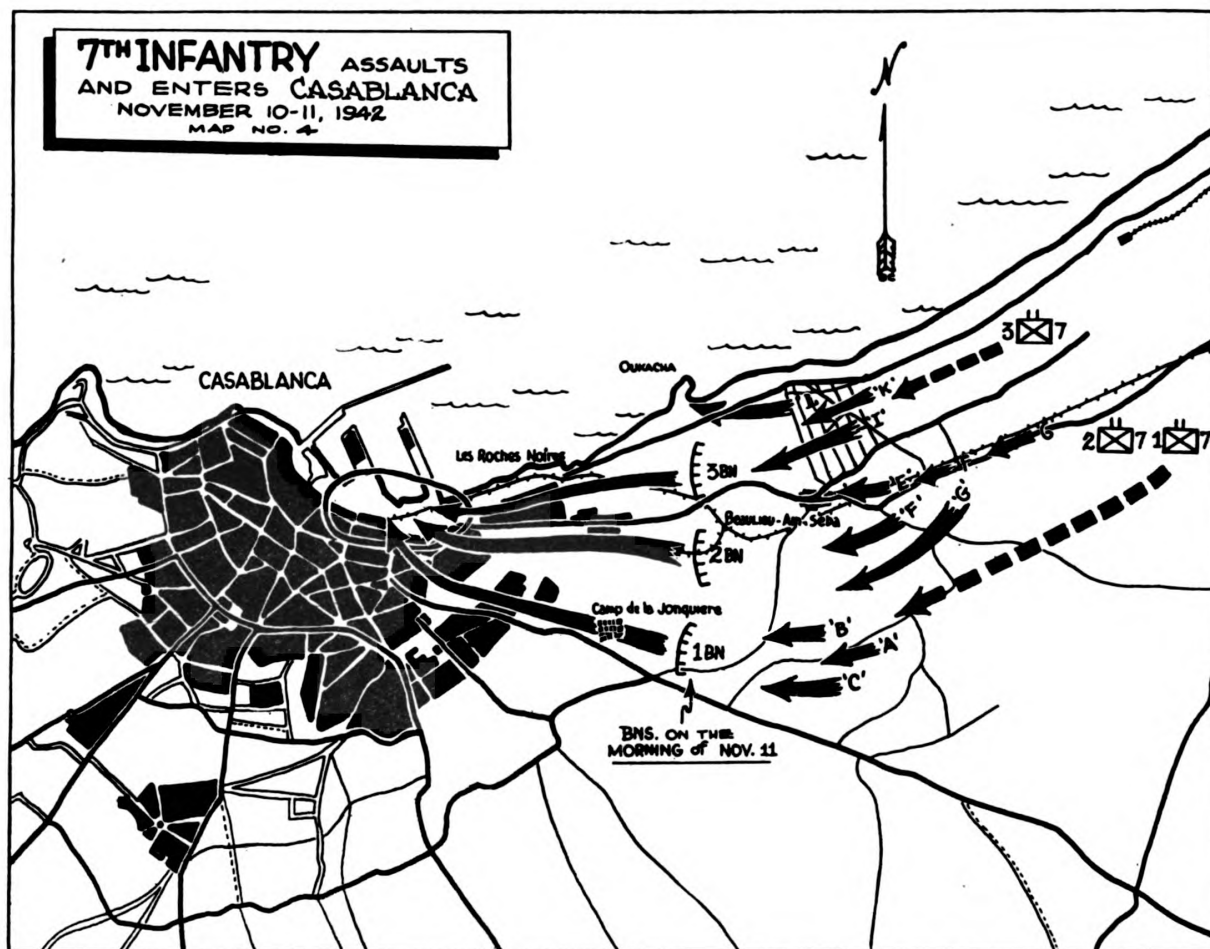
⁴³ GO No. 11, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 11 Dec. '42. Pfc. Meyers was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

terms and sent a message to his command ordering compliance. Colonel Macon then directed that the Seventh Infantry advance at the designated time in accordance with plan, but that fire be withheld unless fire was received.

Then accompanied by Captain Rosson, Colonel Macon took Commandant Govin to the Third Division Command Post where General Anderson was informed of the situation and the French officer reported to the commanding general. The information brought by Commandant Govin confirmed other information obtained by the Division concerning capitulation of the French. General Patton, Commanding General of the Western Task Force, who was present, then ordered "cease firing". Colonel Macon was directed to move the

Troops of the Seventh Infantry marched into Casablanca dirty and tired but satisfied with a "job well done." It was a great victory for the new troops of the Regiment, and they were justified in the feeling of pride that surged through them in having upheld the great traditions of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. They had assaulted a hostile shore and in skillful fighting, in three days time, had forced the enemy to surrender the largest port of the West African Coast, which was badly needed by the Allies.

Though there was rejoicing among them they were sorrowful for their gallant comrades who had sacrificed their lives. Many men had had little sleep if any since 7 November and, had moved by foot, fighting as they



Seventh Infantry into Casablanca and occupy the Third Division objective without firing, unless fired upon. Together with Captain Rosson and Commandant Govin the Regimental Commander went to the French Command Post in Casablanca and checked the movement of the Seventh Infantry elements into the city. The Regimental Command Post was established in an office building near the dock area. Orders were issued to the battalions establishing areas of responsibility and for the placing of guards over key installations with particular attention to the dock area. All units were kept alert and held ready to attack assigned objectives should any further resistance develop from the dock area or coastal battery positions occupied by French Naval units.

went, with their heavy equipment, as much as twenty-five miles. The resistance of the French to their landing, on Cape Fedala, in Beaulieu-Ain-Seba, the Camp de la Jonquiere, and the outskirts of Casablanca had been spirited and determined. Many in their enthusiasm, after experiencing their first taste of combat, regretted that the French had surrendered, as they wanted to fight to the very docks of Casablanca.

The populace of the city enthusiastically acclaimed the "Cotton Balermen", who had played the principal role of the ground forces in forcing the capitulation of the great port. Casablanca was just the first of many great cities to be entered by the inimitable "dogfaces" of the Seventh Infantry. The capitals of Sicily, Italy, Alsace

and Bavaria, as well as other cities, were to welcome them in future days. Many lessons were learned by the Navy and Army regarding amphibious operations that were to be helpful in the future landings. It must be remembered that there were no LCIs, LCTs, or LSTs⁴⁴ in the Fedala landing, but regular transports debarked the troops into Higgins boats which held on the average thirty-two men. Dispersion of the boat waves had caused much confusion initially. It was difficult to get the armor and artillery ashore and the problem of supply was acute in the initial stages. However in spite of the difficulties, by the determination of all, the operation had been a success.

Cost of the three-day campaign to the Seventh Infantry was forty-eight killed in action, one who died of wounds a month later, four who are still missing from the action, seventy-nine seriously wounded in action

and sixty-six lightly wounded in action; or a total of one hundred ninety-six battle casualties.

The great success of the North African landings was due mainly to the element of surprise and overwhelming power of the attacking forces. An important factor also was, in general, the spotty resistance of the French Colonial Army. Algiers fell to the Americans at seven o'clock in the evening of the first day, Oran capitulated on 10 November, and Casablanca defenses gave up early on the 11th. Total Army casualties for the three-days' campaign in French Morocco and Algeria totalled 860 Americans dead or missing and 1050 others wounded.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Landing Craft Infantry, Landing Craft Tanks and Landing Ships Tanks Vessels.

⁴⁵ Detzer, op. cit., p. 48.

CHAPTER II

The North African Interlude and Plans for a Second Amphibious Assault

On the same day that the Seventh Infantry entered Casablanca Rommel's forces were chased out of Egypt as British Eighth Army troops seized Halfaya Pass and captured 1100 enemy, mainly Italians. The pursuit continued across Libya.

Following the successful American landings in French Morocco and Algeria, British First Army troops landed farther to the east at Bone and Phillipville near the Tunisian border, then, with spearheads of American forces, crossed over the border into Tunisia on 15 November 1942. The Tunisian Campaign was on. Early that month the Germans had seized Bizerte and Tunis.

The Seventh Infantry was not to reach Tunisia until a few days before the close of the campaign there, too late to fire a shot. Until early April 1943 when movement was made to Algeria the Regiment was kept stationed near the Spanish Moroccan border to help meet any possible enemy move from that quarter.

During the period 11-25 November 1942, the Third Infantry Division protected the Casablanca-Fedala ports and the Gazes Airport. The Seventh Infantry, with Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion attached, was bivouaced in the L'Oasis area. The Regiment organized positions within its sector and defended approaches to Casablanca. One rifle company outposted the Mazagan Road while another protected the Gazes Airport. Motor patrols were maintained in and around Casablanca and guards placed in the dock area. The 15th Infantry outposted the Marrakech Road and the 30th Infantry organized defensive positions in the Fedala area. The 436th Anti-Aircraft (AW) Battalion maintained two batteries each in the dock area and airport.

Following the capitulation of the French on 11 November all hostilities in French Morocco had ceased. However, French or German naval task forces continued their attacks. On the evening of 11 November, the U.S.S. *Joseph S. Hewes*, which had transported the Third Battalion Landing Team across the Atlantic, was torpedoed, and the next evening the U.S.S. *Tasker H. Bliss* as well as the U.S.S. *Scott* and the U.S.S. *Rutledge* were torpedoed.

THE MARCH TO RABAT

The Third Infantry Division ordered its organizations and attachments to move by marching to a staging area in the vicinity of Fedala. The Seventh Infantry, with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion attached for movement, moved by battalions via the Grand-Ceinture-Route Principale No. 1 and closed into its area east of the Wadi Nefikkh on 27 November. The battalions conducted problems on the 28th. On 29 November at a Regimental formation held at Point Blondin, various members of the command received awards from Major General Anderson for gallantry in action displayed during the three-day campaign.

But a few days were spent in the Fedala bivouac. On 1 December the Regiment led the division on a march for the Rabat area. The Regimental Command Post group with the First Battalion crossed the initial starting point at 0800. Marching fifty minutes and resting ten out of each hour the Regiment took an hour off for chow at noontime and then resumed the march at 1300. At 1445 a bivouac area was reached and the troops put up for the day.

On 2 December at 0800 the march was resumed and at 1530 a new temporary bivouac area in the vicinity of Rabat was reached. During the two-day march many men had fallen out of ranks because of bad feet. On the next morning the troops moved to the race tracks south of Rabat and spent the remainder of the day cleaning up. An order was issued that because of hook worms personnel would not walk around bare footed.

On 4 December the First and Second Battalions, preceded by the Seventh Infantry Band and Regimental Colors, paraded around Rabat to a bivouac area in the Memoura Forest northeast of Rabat, about one mile west of the Rabat-Meknes highway. The Third Battalion placed guards in Rabat and at the airport.

The Seventh Infantry remained in the Rabat area throughout December and January. The battalions alternated doing guard duty in Rabat and vicinity and engaged in a program of training that was to be remem-



Officers and non-commissioned officers of the S-1 Section, 7th Inf., outside a tent in North Africa. L. to R.: Sgt. (later 2 Lt.) Fred C. Taylor; Cpl. Small; Cpl. (later Sgt. Maj.) Ross C. Cox; 1 Lt. (later Maj.) Richard A. Smith, and 1 Lt. David N. Murdock (co-writer of "Stella the Belle of Fedala" and later KIA).

bered for all time. Road marches, speed marches, calisthenics, small units in the attack and defense were the order of the day. The Memoura Forest came to be known as the "Cork Grove" to the troops, who became hardened through the daily training grind. However little incidents and special events offered some change to the daily routine and passes were issued regularly for Rabat. On Sundays divine services were held. One day the Regimental Commander received the report that someone had stolen two bicycles belonging to Mademoiselle Renne Peyer of Rabat. It is not known if the mademoiselle ever regained her bicycles.

It was during this period that legend and song regarding the Fedala landing, and subsequent action, developed and became popular with the troops. Though the Regiment spent eight months in Africa during World War II its fighting was limited to the three-day French Moroccan campaign, the shortest period of actual combat engaged in by the Regiment in this war, but old timers have always liked to tell of it. The Army gag, legend and song concerning the Fedala-Casablanca action has become a part of the Regiment's history. Two examples are presented:

"WHO DOOD IT"

1.

"Come and listen you men, to a strange tale of mine;
'Tis a story of battle that I've put into rhyme.
And it's not the same story, I'm sure you'll agree
That the papers put out for the public to see.

2.

"We left old Camp Pickett and took to the sea
Where we studied about our battle to be,
Or sat near the rail, if it wasn't too cold,
And the gambling on deck was a sight to behold.

3.

"At the crack of the dawn on the eighth of November—
It's a date I am sure you quite well remember—
With our orders to open Morocco's front door,
We went o'er the side and headed for shore.

4.

"We stormed o'er the beach, and no one, of course,
Saw one single man of that big Armored Force.
The artill'ry was landing—men died with each blast—
They were Infantry men from the first to the last.

5.

"Then for two days and nights we were right on the ball;
Their strafing and bombing didn't stop us at all.
Tho' the Frenchmen's artillery was rather effective,
We kept fighting on to our final objective.

6.

"And then came the Armored Force, rugged and fierce,
Attempting the enemy's front lines to pierce.
Three little tanks went up at one whack,
But a few minutes later came scurrying back.

7.

"As for parachute troops, they were nowhere around,
And for miles and miles not a one could be found.
We got dive bombers once, through lots of red tape,
For a couple of tough spots we alone couldn't take.

8.

"The Navy was there, and they did a fine job
Blasting shore installations as rough as a cob.
And besides that, destroyers, and submarines, too,
They had to contend with out there on the blue.

9.

"Our Air Force was fighting at some other place.
Of the Armored Force, too, there was hardly a trace;
Those "three armored columns," it appears unto me,
Were just three battalions of green Infantry.

10.

"When the battle was over we marched into town
To the cheering of thousands because arms were laid down;
Casablanca was ours—a prize little nut:
The Infantry took it, and nobody but!

11.

"Let the magazines rave! We can talk of the truth
As we fry Arab eggs and drink bad vermouth.
But don't quote me, fellows, that is not my intention;
I'll be court-martialled if this gets too much attention."

Pfc. I. C. Vander Jagt,
Company "M", Seventh Inf.

During the stay in the Memoura Forest the "Memora Publishing Company" published, in mimeograph form, the song "Stella the Belle of Fedala" the words and music of which had been composed sometime after the landing by Lieutenants Tom Marnette and Dave Murdock, both of the Seventh Infantry and who subsequently were killed in action. The song became very popular among the troops and spread to other organizations. The song tells its own story. With the permission of the publishers it is reprinted in the appendix.

On 19 December a parade was held in Rabat by French troops and the First Battalion, after which Lieutenant Colonel Moore's command remained in the city to take over the guard duties. On 22 December the Third Battalion engaged in some air-ground problems with air units. On Christmas Day the Regimental Band played in the bivouac area from eight till ten o'clock in the morning. Boy and girl scouts from Rabat sang Christmas carols to the troops as General Anderson visited the area in the afternoon.

New Year's Day and 9 January 1943, the anniversary day for the Seventh Infantry, were days of rest for the troops. On the 10th the Sultan's band played in the area at 1000 and seventy-five French officers and enlisted men arrived to commence training with American weapons and equipment under direction of the Third Battalion. A regular school was held for the French personnel who were taught the assembly, disassembly and functioning of the rifle, Model 1, Browning automatic rifle, mortars, machine guns, 37mm anti-tank guns as well as the 75mm and 105mm cannons, then given practical work in firing all the weapons. This was followed by instruction in communications, and maintenance of transportation equipment, as well as driving of vehicles. Many demonstrations were conducted for the French in regard to the proper use of American equipment.

On 21 January 1943, Seventh Infantry troops took part in a review of the Third Infantry and Second Armored Infantry Divisions before President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the main highway leading north out of Sale. Accompanying the president were many dignitaries, and high civil and military personages including Harry Hopkins, Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark of the Fifth Army and Major Generals George S. Patton, Jonathan W. Anderson, Ernest Harmon, and Harmon Eddy of the First Armored Corps, Third Infantry, Second Armored and Ninth Infantry Divisions respectively. Following the review the President attended the Casablanca Conference with Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain.

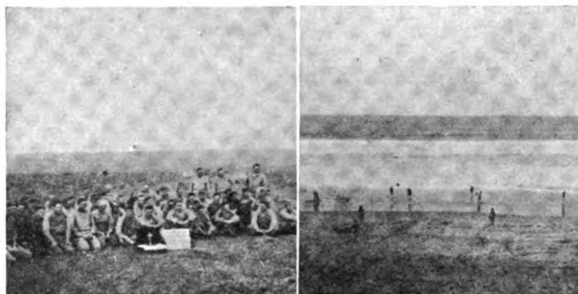
On 25 January Group III consisting of two hundred thirty-nine officers and enlisted men of the two hundred fifty-five left behind in the States, rejoined the Regiment. On 29 January, in a lovely cathedral in Rabat, memorial services were held for Chaplain Clement M. Falter who had been killed in action on D-Day. On 30 January a general review and graduation exercises for the French class were held.

PORT LYAUTEY AREA

(8 FEBRUARY 1943—6 APRIL 1943)

Following Divine Services and recreation on 7 February, the Regiment broke down tents and made preparations to move. At 0700 on the 8th the troops commenced leaving their "Cork Grove" in the Memoura Forest and marched to a new bivouac area in the vicinity of Port Lyautey, French Morocco, which was reached in the afternoon. The Regimental Command Post moved by vehicle and had set up in the new area during the morning.

For the next few days the usual duties were performed. On the 10th a group of officers including Lieutenant Colonel John O. Williams, Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, Major Robert C. Williams, Major Frank C. Sinsel, Captains Thomas M. Airial, Albert Brown, John A. Elterich, and Curtis C. Tigard, Lieutenant Leo K. Bustad and Lieutenant Abner D. Kupperstein left for a two week period of training at Fifth Army Invasion Training Center.



- (1) Co. "A", 7th Inf., goes to church near the Spanish Moroccan border. Services were conducted by Chaplain Dyreson.
- (2) Members of I Bn., 7th Inf., take time out from guard duty and swim in the Atlantic near the Spanish Moroccan border, Feb. 1943.

On the 16th of February at 2000 hours in Port Lyautey, French Morocco, the clothes of a truck driver caught fire. Immediately Private Kenneth E. Votruba, of Service Company, who had been conversing with the driver, flung him to the ground and attempted unsuccessfully to beat out the flames with his bare hands. Having no other means available, Private Votruba then threw his body over the driver's legs and succeeded in smothering the fire. Although his own hands were severely blistered Private Votruba drove the badly burned man to the Regimental Aid Station. His quick and courageous action saved the driver's life.¹

February 1943 was a month which saw many changes in the personnel of the Seventh Infantry. Immediately following the sad events in Tunisia when the Germans attacked and overran American forces and broke through the Faid and Kasserine passes to inflict heavy losses on two American divisions, the Seventh Infantry lost many excellent men and officers as replacements to the hard hit divisions. On 19 February sixty officers and nine hundred eighty-six enlisted men were selected to go to the Second Corps as replacements. They departed from the Regiment just a few days later. In future days some were to return to the Seventh Infantry but many of them bade farewell forever to the Regiment they had given their best, while they were members of it.

COLONEL MACON LEAVES 7th INFANTRY AND IS PROMOTED TO RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL

On 20 February, as the troops that were leaving the Regiment were being inspected prior to departure, Colonel Macon was relieved of command of the Seventh Infantry and notified of his promotion to brigadier general. In a presentation ceremony at the Regimental Command Post he was presented his stars by Major General Anderson who later was to bid farewell to his own staff and relinquish the command of the Third Infantry Division.

¹ GO No. 108, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 9 June '44. Pvt. Votruba was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

The new brigadier general was born in Washington, D. C., in the year 1890, the son of a coast artillery officer. After completing his high school education in the capital city, he matriculated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, from which he was graduated with a Master of Engineering degree in 1913. In 1916, he was commissioned in the Infantry, and from 1919 to 1921 he commanded the 13th Infantry in China. He served as a general staff officer with troops in Panama from 1931 to 1933 and with the Fourth Armored Infantry Division in 1941. In April 1942 he had assumed command of the Seventh Infantry.²



Brig. Gen. Robert C. Macon as he appeared after relinquishing command of the 7th U. S. Inf. on 19 Feb. 1943 and receiving his stars.

Colonel Harry B. Sherman, who succeeded Brigadier General Macon as Commanding Officer of the Seventh Infantry, was born on 25 April 1894, in Honeoye Falls, New York. He graduated from Livonia High School in 1914 then entered the United States Military Academy at West Point and graduated with the class of 1918. His first assignment as a Second Lieutenant was with the 45th Infantry. He then served for a period with the old 5th Infantry in Panama before joining the 15th Infantry in December 1941. He served as executive officer of the "Dragon" Regiment until he assumed active command of the Seventh Infantry on 1 March 1943.

On 27 February the Regiment received thirty-three first and second lieutenants from Casablanca and on 1 March the officers who had left for the Invasion Training Center returned. Later other replacements were received and the Regiment was required to carry on a great deal of small unit problems for the benefit of the new members. Intensive training was also conducted with tactical problems held day and night. Troops were put through a battle course, mine course, and wire obstacle course.

MOVE TO ST. LIEU, ALGERIA, AND INTENSIVE TRAINING AT ARZEW AND PONT DU CHELIFF AREAS

Commencing 6 April 1943, the Regiment moved by rail and motor from Port Lyautey to the vicinity of St. Lieu, Algeria, where until 1 May 1943, intensive training was conducted for a second amphibious landing against hostile shores. The training stressed the following:

1. Physical conditioning with road marches at the rate of five miles in one hour, or four miles per hour for a greater distance than five miles. Log tossing, obstacle course running, bayonet training and hand to hand combat also were a part of the physical training program. Those who could not meet the standards required were eliminated.

2. Combined Infantry-Artillery problems during which the troops learned to follow artillery fire closely, sometimes within one hundred yards, and acquired confidence in its accuracy. Overhead mortar and machine gun fire added to the simulation of battle conditions.

3. Mine laying and removal. The troops trained with all types of American, British, German and Italian mines. Demonstrations of booby traps likely to be encountered were given.

4. Embarkation and debarkation from all types of landing craft to be used in shore to shore amphibious operations.

From 25 to 28 April the Seventh Infantry conducted an amphibious landing exercise in the Pont Du Cheliff area. Loading on to LCIs and LSTs on the first two days the landing group teams staged an assault landing under simulated conditions with a reinforced battalion from another regiment playing the enemy's part. Advances were made eight miles inland to objectives and the exercise terminated. Two days of mountain training were then conducted in the Pont Du Cheliff area until abruptly halted by order of Third Division Headquarters.

SEVENTH INFANTRY WINS ITS SECOND CAMPAIGN STAR IN WORLD WAR II WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT

In Tunisia meanwhile Allied forces had made up for earlier disasters and were rapidly forcing the German-Italian forces back to the sea. To exploit the successes of the Second American Corps the high command decided to attach to it a fresh division and the Third Infantry Division was selected. Acting with great speed and coordination the "Rock of the Marne" Division stopped its training on 30 April. During the first hours of darkness on 1 May, the 15th Infantry was on the road in trucks. The Seventh Infantry followed out closely at 1200 on 1 May. By 7 May the Seventh Infantry with other units of the Third Division was concentrated inside the Tunisian border in the Chardimaou-Wadi Melis area and in Second Corps reserve, thus actually engaged in the closing phases of the Tunisian Campaign. However before the Regiment, and the Division for that matter, could fire a shot General Jurgen Von Arnim surrendered his German-Italian forces unconditionally and the Tunisian Campaign was over.

The Regiment moved to the Mateur area. The period from the 10th to 14th April was spent in rounding up prisoners of war and salvage duties. The Regiment suffered five casualties during this period due to enemy action, though not directly. On 12 May, in Porto Farina, Tunisia, an enemy truck overturned, killing in action Private Marion E. Moore of Company "B" engaged in salvage duties. Also on the same day Privates First Class Anthony De Nucci, Edward V. Debnar and Joseph

² Shortly after he relinquished command of the Seventh Infantry Brigadier General Macon returned to the United States and in April 1943 became Assistant Division Commander of the 83rd Infantry Division. In January 1944 he succeeded to the command of that division and led it to England three months later. Promoted to Major General he then moved his division to the continent and commanded it through five campaigns from 4 July 1944 to 8 May 1945.

A. Varriano, all of Company "B", were injured by another enemy truck overturning in Ferryville. The 15th Infantry suffered six casualties, Company "B" of the 10th Engineers three and Troop "A", 91st Reconnaissance Squadron, one casualty during the salvaging period. On 13 May at Ferryville Private Andrew F. Bartlett of Company "E" was killed by an exploding anti-personnel mine.



KILLED IN ACTION
Maj. Eugene H. Cloud, USMA '34, former
CO, 3d Bn., 7th Inf., in Tunisia.

The Tunisian Campaign for the Seventh Infantry was "short and sweet", but, because the Regiment sent so many replacements to the hard hit units before it was ordered to the front itself, it contributed much to the successful conclusion of that campaign. It is believed that many former "Cotton Balers" lost their lives in the Tunisian fighting. Two who are definitely known to have been killed in action in that campaign are: Major Eugene H. Cloud, former commanding officer of the Third Battalion, while serving as aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant General K. A. N. Anderson, commanding British First Army, and Lt. James A. Richey while serving with Company "M", 168th Infantry of the 34th Infantry Division.

On 15 May 1943, the Regiment moved by rail and motor back to Algeria, this time to Phillipeville. Training in the reduction of beach fortifications and plans of maneuver were conducted in the Jemmapes area. The Regiment began training with the objective of an assault landing and an advance inland of five miles. At this time the First Battalion was selected as the assault battalion of the Regiment while the Second and Third Battalions trained to follow up and pass through the assault battalion with the view of capturing inland objectives. Street fighting drew much training time as the battalions conducted many night problems. The Jemmapes area was not suitable for specialized amphibious training.

RETURN TO TUNISIA AND FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR AN ASSAULT LANDING

The Seventh Infantry completed a motor march from Jemmapes, Algiers, on 14 June 1943, and established a new bivouac in the vicinity of Mateur, Tunisia, among the stunted olive trees. Units were dispersed over a wide area as every possible effort was made to prevent enemy air observation. During this time Ferryville and Bizerte and shipping were being raided regularly by enemy planes. Each individual had his own slit trench for protection from air attacks. The heat was terrific, dust a problem and the prevalence of insects and flies necessitated rigid sanitary precautions. In expectation of imminent combat conditions, water and rations were held to a minimum. The troops became thinned and hardened due to constant physical exertion during training hours which were long and irregular.

Specialized training was conducted at Lake Bizerte stressing coordination with the Navy in all phases of landing operations, removal of beach obstacles and mines, attack on real German built pillboxes, mortar firing from landing craft and grapnel firing for the removal of beach wire. As usual speed marches, including daily mile runs, were conducted to keep troops in top physical form.

From 23 to 27 June the Regiment engaged with other Division units in a big dry run or dress rehearsal for the next assault operation. Following this rehearsal the intensive training ended and the troops were given somewhat of a rest. Drill hours were shortened and the men received more time for recreation. Nevertheless speed marches and physical conditioning continued, to prevent losing that physical fitness the troops had acquired. On 3 July General Lucian K. Truscott spoke to all officers of the Third Infantry Division in his fighting manner and the next day, "Independence Day," in a Division review ceremony, gave another fight talk to all troops.

PLANS FOR A SECOND AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

During the time from March to July 1943 as troops trained faithfully day and night for an amphibious operation, planning boards considered detailed coordinated plans for an operation against enemy forces in Sicily.

Final plans called for an assault by a combined American and British force against the southeastern portion of Sicily on D-Day to capture it as a base for further operations. A general line running from Pozallo on the southeastern coast north to Ragusa and Vizzini was to separate the zones of action of the British Eighth Army on the east from that of the American Force 343, or Seventh Army, on the west. The American Force consisting of the Second Corps on the right and a provisional corps named Joss Force on the left, had the mission of seizing and holding the airfields at Ponte Olive and the one just north of Comiso, the air landing fields at Biscari and northwest of Licata, and the port of Licata. The Third Infantry Division, reinforced to about one-third its normal size and one combat team of the Second Armored Division under the command of General Lucian K. Truscott, constituted Joss Force and drew the mission of seizing the Licata airfield and port.³ The other missions of the American Force were assigned to the Second Corps consisting of the fighting First, Ninth and Forty-Fifth Infantry Divisions. The Eighty-Second Airborne was to drop forces behind enemy lines on D-1.

³ FO 5 Hq. 3d Inf. Div. (Reing.) (Joss) Bizerte, Tunisia, 26 June 1943.



Maj. Gen. Lucian K. Truscott, CG, 3d Inf. Div., addresses troops prior to embarkation from North Africa for Sicily 2 July 1943. On the right a close-up of the general.

Joss Force planned to land a battalion from each of the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry regiments and the Third Ranger Battalion on four beaches east and west of Licata, designated Red, Green, Yellow, and Blue, and to follow up rapidly with other forces to accomplish its mission.

The XII Air Support Command had the mission of providing air support for Force 343 including aerial bombardment of enemy strong points, reconnaissance and fighter cover to protect landing forces against attack by enemy aircraft.

Naval gun fire support was to be furnished by close and deep supporting fires by five support groups of United States Navy cruisers and destroyers including the *U.S.S. Birmingham*, *U.S.S. Brooklyn*, *U.S.S. Buck*, *U.S.S. Ludlow*, *U.S.S. Roe*, *U.S.S. Swanson*, *U.S.S. Edison*, *U.S.S. Woolsey*, *U.S.S. Wilkes* and the *U.S.S. Nicholson*.

The Seventh Infantry commanded by Colonel Harry B. Sherman had made detailed plans for its part in the operation.⁴ Order of battle consisted of the Seventh Infantry with a Detachment 3rd Signal Company, Shore Fire Control Party No. 1 and a Prisoner of War Interrogation Team attached; the 10th Field Artillery Battalion with the 62nd Armored Infantry Battalion, Battery "A", 9th Field Artillery Battalion, and Shore Fire Control Party No. 2 attached; Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion; Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion; Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion; and Company "G", 66th Armored Regiment. Several other units were attached to the Seventh Infantry for the landing only. When ashore they were to execute missions assigned to them by other headquarters.

Naval fire support 'Gaffi' including the *U.S.S. Roe* and *U.S.S. Swanson* was to give direct support to the Seventh Infantry. The Regiment was to land on Beach Red about six miles west of Licata, Sicily, at H-hour, D-day. The First Battalion, the assault battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, with a platoon of engineers was to reduce the beach defenses to facilitate subsequent landings.

Three mortar squads of the First Platoon, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion, were to precede the assault waves prepared to fire on beach targets, or to smoke the beach in event of a daylight landing. One rifle

company of the First Battalion was to occupy the high ground at "F", on Torre St. Nicola, relieve elements of the Third Ranger Battalion thereon and protect the left flank and rear of the Green Force. Following completion of its task the First Battalion was to assemble in an area behind the Second Battalion.

The Second Battalion under the command of Major Everett W. Duvall was to follow at a half hour interval, pass through the assault battalion in its zone of action, destroy all enemy to be encountered, and seize objective "L", the high ground at Torre Maratta, to hold the enemy north and west of the line O.P. It was also the mission of the Second Battalion to protect the Regimental right flank, establish and cover a railroad in the vicinity of objective "W".

Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges assumed command of the Third Battalion on 4 July just a day before the troops loaded on the invasion craft. Having been a member of the Third Division G-3 Section he had made detailed studies of Red Beach and was well prepared to command the battalion on such short notice. The Third Battalion drew the mission of following the Second Battalion at a half hour interval, to pass through the assault battalion in zone with utmost speed, destroy all enemy to be encountered, and seize objective "K", to hold the enemy north and west of the line O.P. The battalion was to protect the left of the Regiment and destroy the railroad at "T". One rifle company was to be established in the vicinity of "T" to cover the railroad demolition detail, the Anti-Tank Company Mine Platoon and Company "A", 10th Engineers, which units were to lay a mine field in the vicinity. A 57mm Gun Platoon had the mission covering enemy approaches from the west.

Both the Second and Third Battalions were to be prepared, upon the accomplishment of their initial missions, to attack and destroy by-passed enemy positions. Regimental Cannon Company commanded by Captain Charles W. Edwards, Jr., was to commence landing at H-plus 130, assemble and be prepared to deliver fire on the enemy strong point at "V". Anti-Tank Company,

⁴ FO 5 Hq. 7th Inf. Bizerte, Tunisia, 1 July 1943.

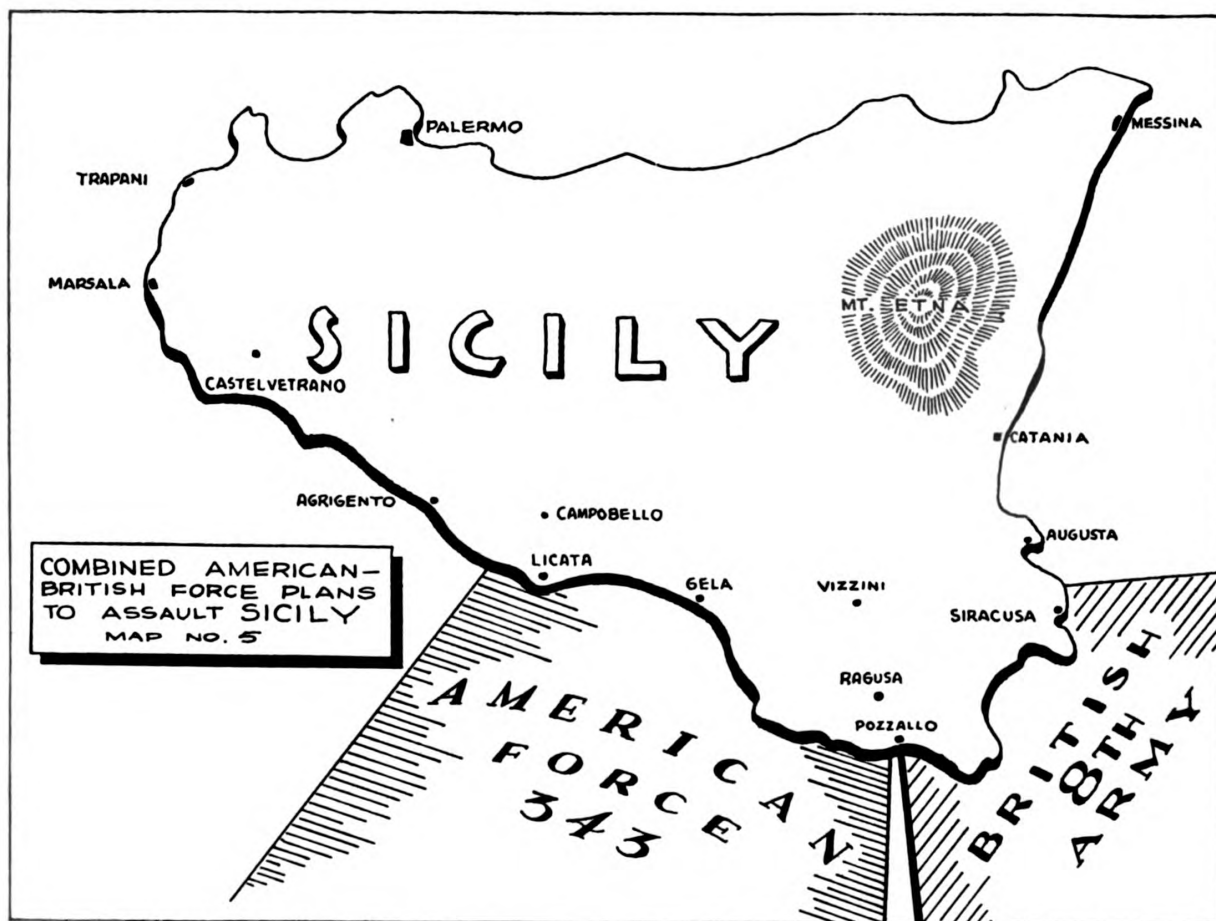
commanded by First Lieutenant Thomas D. Rush, had the missions of clearing beach exits, protecting the beach-head from tank attacks and to be prepared to deliver fire against hostile emplacements.

The zone of action assigned to the Seventh Infantry was in the western third of the Licata plain and the western portion of the broken hill mass which rims the plain in an arc about Licata. The plain is undulating, has an extensive road net and stream net, which is dry in summer, and is largely cultivated with wheat, vine and orchard farmland. In the left of the zone the plain ends and mountains rise to the north and west to average heights of one thousand feet. Monte Durra is the highest with 1540 feet. Highway No. 115 runs parallel to the coast from Agrigento to Licata and Highway No. 123 runs north from Licata into the hills. There are numerous secondary roads and trails. There are two railroad lines which cross the plain in this section. One runs parallel to Highway No. 115 along the coast and the other turns northward from Licata toward Campobello.

Beach Red, on which the Seventh Infantry was to land, extends from Punta di Ciotta on the west to Punta San Nicola four thousand yards east. Width of the beach is from five to twenty yards. Most of the beach is backed

by a steep bluff varying from two to sixty feet high but several breaks occur which could be used for vehicles. The beach was reported firm but had loose sand at the exits. Two stream beds with low banks where the V. Secco and V. Madre Chiesa flow into the sea made two excellent beach exits for vehicles. Trails and breaks in the bluff at several other places made excellent exits for foot troops. Torre Di Gaffe, a tower sixty feet high, and Torre San Nicola, a tower one hundred seventy feet high, were conspicuous landmarks. Off shore from Punta San Nicola stands Rocca San Nicola one hundred feet high.

Enemy forces in Sicily were estimated to be four field divisions, five coastal divisions and two German Air Force divisions, with a total Italian Garrison of 208,500 troops, a total German Garrison of 24,000 troops and possibly 5,000 German field troops left after the fall of Tunis. Enemy locations known just prior to D-day indicated that the 26th Assietta Infantry Division could move up to the assistance of the 207th Coastal Division in the Licata area and attack the Seventh Infantry on the left flank of Joss Force. The enemy's capabilities seemed to be to defend at the water's edge with coastal defense units and to defend or counter-attack from the high ground along the line Palma di Montechiaro-Camastra-Campobello.



PART TWO

The Sicilian Campaign 10 July–17 August, 1943

CHAPTER I

The Landing West of Licata and the Capture of Agrigento and Palermo

Embarkation of Regimental Combat Team 7 was accomplished at Bizerte, Tunisia, 5, 6, and 7 July 1943. The Combat Team was loaded on three convoys: a fast one consisting of the LCIs; a medium one of the LSTs; and a slow convoy of the LCTs. Enemy planes attacked the shipping in Bizerte Harbor at 0400 hours 6 July. During the half-hour attack three of the enemy planes were shot down by anti-aircraft crews. Other enemy air attacks were made but no serious damage resulted or did they materially slow the operations in progress.

The fast convoy left Bizerte on 6 July and stopped at Sousse, Tunisia, 8 July, where troops went ashore for several hours. The medium and slow convoys left Bizerte 7 July. The three echelons were to rendezvous off Gozo Island near Malta 9 July. An unusual wind-storm occurred on that day over the Mediterranean. The fury of the storm rolled and tossed the vessels about. The slow LSTs changed their course. The soldiers thought that their landings would be postponed but by nightfall the storm subsided and the invasion forces approached the shores of Sicily.

THE LANDING WEST OF LICATA, SICILY

At about 0400, one hour and fifteen minutes after H-Hour, 10 July 1943, the first assault waves of the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, landed in a heavy sea at Beach Red, about six miles west of Licata, Sicily. Of the four assault battalions of Joss Force, it experienced the most trouble. Due to difficulty in assembling the mortar wave in the rendezvous area the three mortar squads did not precede the assault waves as planned. Tactical surprise was accomplished, however, and no fire was received by the first waves until the beach was crossed and the foot of the bluff was reached, but then machine gun fire from both flanks opened up and enemy artillery fire began to fall on our troops. Fortunately enemy defenses were poorly designed, containing few mines within barbed wire entanglements. Combat squads worked swiftly and aggressively to crush hostile strong points with concussion grenades and twelve pound satchel charges. The few pillboxes were soon reduced. Elements ran up the gullies and paths to the top of the bluff which over-looked the beach.

Company "A", commanded by Captain Celon A. Peterson, with one section of heavy machine guns attached, turned right and cleared the beach of obstacles and resistance within its zone of action as far as Torre San Nicola. Leaving one platoon to hold this point the remainder of the company moved over to relieve elements of the Third Ranger Battalion on Beach Green. At one point the company came under direct heavy machine gun fire from a fortified position about two hundred yards away. Private Frederick C. Holcomb and Private William V. Westenheffer, with the help of one other man led an attack on the left flank of the machine gun nest and in so doing they exposed themselves to aimed fire. The machine gun nest was destroyed and twenty enemy were captured. That action cleared the way so that Company "A" could continue to advance without suffering heavy casualties, and contributed materially to the accomplishment of the company's mission.¹

Company "C", commanded by Captain Herman E. Wagner, with one section of 81mm mortars attached, turned to the left and cleared the beach area within its zone of action, as far as Torre di Gaffe, against very strong opposition.

Company "B", under the command of First Lieutenant Jack M. Duncan, swept the center of the battalion zone of action, organized the high ground and set up defensive positions on Hills No. 39, 40 and 53.

Captain Carter C. Crall commanded Company "D". At about 0430 the boat in which Private First Class Frank M. Juarez and Private Carlos C. Asin were riding struck a large rock about two hundred yards from shore and was wrecked. Disregarding their own safety while under enemy machine gun and artillery fire, the two soldiers assisted fellow members of the company who were unable to swim, through the heavy surf to the beach. They then returned to the boat, which was under machine gun fire, three times to retrieve vitally needed equipment.²

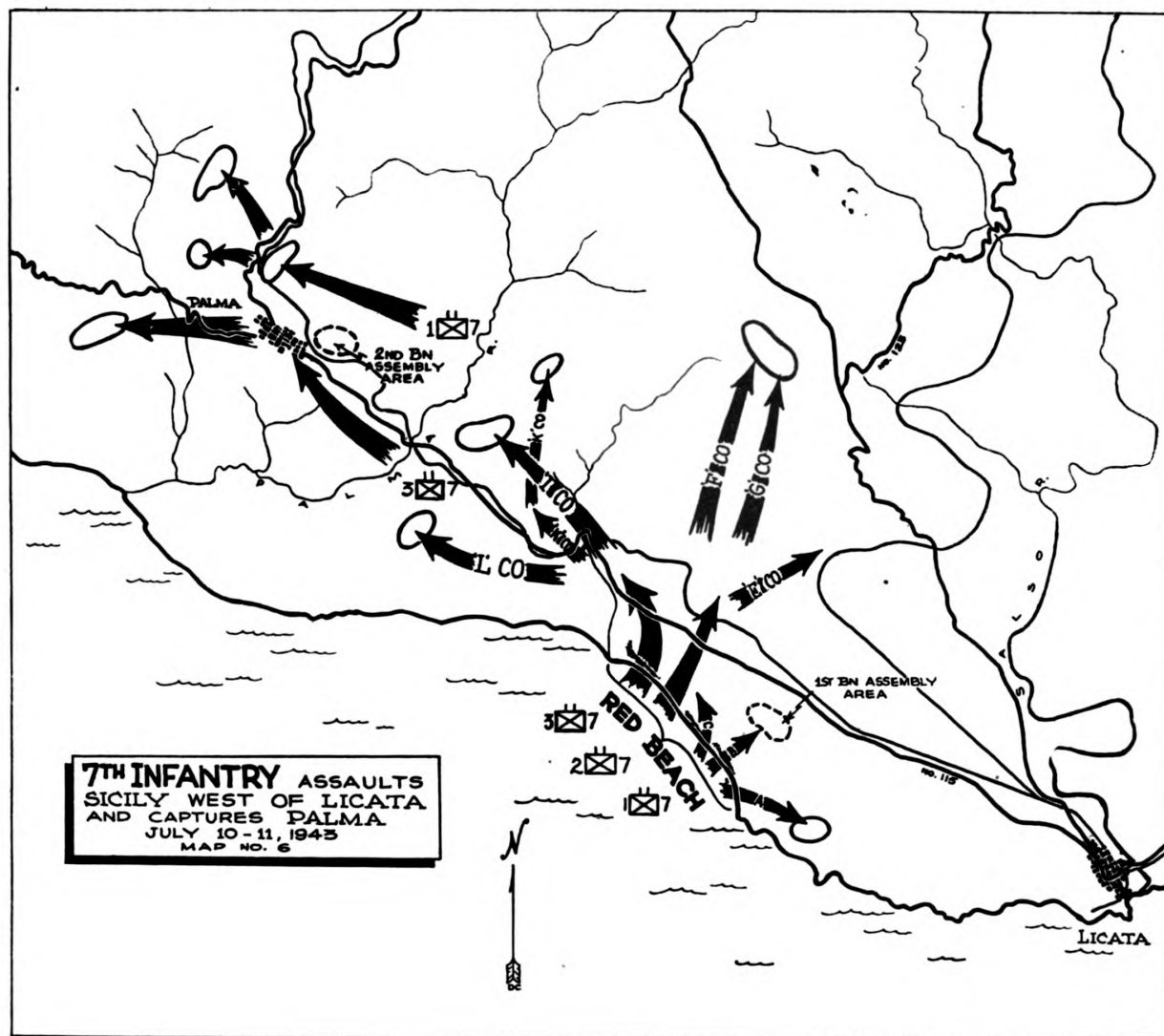
¹ GO No. 79, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 Oct. '43. Pfc. Holcomb and Pvt. Westenheffer were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

² GO No. 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Sept. '43. Pfc. Juarez and Pvt. Asin were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

About fifty Italian prisoners of war were taken by the First Battalion and a quantity of enemy arms and equipment was captured. Within an hour the First Battalion had cleaned up all resistance in the immediate beach area, with the exception of one enemy 47mm gun on the left flank. This gun continued to harass the landing for approximately two hours, scoring direct hits on LCIs No. 1 and No. 5, the latter being the command vessel of the Regimental Commander, Colonel Harry B. Sherman. Captain James C. Boyd of Company "E", Private Joseph A. Slavik of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion,

locate leading elements of another platoon and to signal his company commander so that supporting weapons might be employed. He located the enemy front line positions and signaled to friendly forces with tracer fire. Supporting 60mm mortars were put into action and seventy-seven enemy quickly surrendered.³

The enemy 47mm gun was finally knocked out at 0615. Direct fire by Naval 20mm gun crews on LCIs was instrumental in silencing the gun. The Naval gunners gave a good account of themselves by also silencing two enemy machine guns above the beach. The co-



and two other enlisted men were killed and six enlisted men were wounded aboard the LCIs by the enemy fire.

The Second Battalion landed at 0440 under machine gun, rifle and mortar fire. The LCI with Company "F" personnel was subjected to direct fire from 20mm weapons and machine guns. Company "E" encountered stiff opposition from enemy troops entrenched on their objective. Heavy fire from enemy riflemen and machine gunners from two hundred to four hundred yards distant wounded two men and held up the platoon of Staff Sergeant Lee H. Perkins. With another man he volunteered to cross an open area four hundred yards wide to

ordinating line was reached at 0555 and at 0820 the Second Battalion objectives, Hills 475, 469 and 429 were taken. Communication was established between all companies. Defensive positions were set up and Hills 356, 224 and 363 outposted. At 1400 the Second Battalion was attached to the 15th Infantry.

Last scheduled battalion to land was the Third. Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges directed of the Navy Commander that the Blue Battalion be landed before

³ GO No. 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Sept. '43. S/Sgt. Perkins was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

daylight wherever possible. As a result instead of being landed behind the first two battalions the Third Battalion was landed to the left at 0510 on the part of the beach under the bluffs of Torre di Gaffe, which part had not been touched by the first two battalions. Some protection was offered there from artillery fire but vigorous opposition from enemy automatic weapons entrenched on top of the bluffs was received. Sides of the bluffs which the troops had to climb were found to be wired.

The leading elements of Company "L" came under heavy fire from several enemy machine guns and numerous rifles. Sergeant Lawrence B. Rogers, accompanied by three men, moved on through the fire, scaled an embankment and by vicious assault destroyed an enemy emplacement and captured nineteen Italian soldiers.⁴

Private Joseph R. Jojola of Company "L" advanced with the leading elements of his company across an open field. An enemy machine gun which was dug-in and well concealed, opened fire on the lead troops, and caused them to deploy and seek cover. Realizing the danger in the situation, Private Jojola, on his own initiative and without order, crawled forward through the gun fire to a location from which he could throw hand grenades into the emplacement. He succeeded in destroying the resistance thereby allowing his company to continue its advance.⁵

Corporal Richard M. Sparks of Company "L" lost his weapon during the landing operations due to the extremely rough surf and the fact that he had to swim to the beach from his landing craft. Once on shore though unarmed he advanced through woods in the direction of an enemy machine gun which opened fire on the rest of his platoon. Upon nearing the enemy position by skillful maneuver, he caused the machine gunner and additional enemy soldiers nearby to surrender by his presence alone. The gunner was in position and ready to fire but the surprise of Corporal Spark's presence caused his surrender. Corporal Sparks thus reduced the enemy fire against the remainder of the platoon and enabled it to push on to its objective.⁶

After Company "K" landed and scaled the bluffs it came under heavy machine gun, rifle and mortar fire. Captain Marcus K. Biggers mustered together several small groups and led them against the enemy weapons which were outflanked, destroyed and their crews killed or captured. That action resulted in a speedy reorganization of the company and a continuation of the advance.⁶

Staff Sergeant Carl W. Boone, acting platoon leader of the First Platoon of Company "K", advanced his platoon by covered routes in his zone of action, to within one hundred yards of an enemy pillbox and its surrounding defenses. The leading scout was fired upon and all of the defense opened fire on the platoon. Remaining cool under the enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Boone moved about directing his squads into position for an assault. On his order and under his leadership the platoon's flanking and assaulting forces charged the defenses with grenades and bayonets. The strong point was over-run with but one casualty to the attacking forces.⁶

The squad of Company "K" to which Private Lloyd L. Shipp belonged came under heavy well-aimed machine gun fire, the effectiveness of which caused the squad to take cover. Private Shipp however moved forward with skillful use of cover through the enemy fire. He maneuvered to within seventy-five yards of the machine gun and then fired an anti-tank rocket grenade into the nest which destroyed the enemy machine gun and allowed the squad to advance.⁶

Companies "L" and "I" moved on toward the Third Battalion objectives on either side of Highway No. 115. When Captain James F. Steiner of Company "L" was

wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges led the company toward Objective "K". Second Lieutenant Wilbur V. Hamm, with an eight man demolition detail, advanced ahead of the leading companies and succeeded in blowing the bridge at "T". All Third Battalion objectives were seized by 1000.

As the rifle battalions advanced on their objectives, remaining units of the Regimental Combat Team continued to land. Soft sand on the beach and steep dry streambeds, which were the only exits, made it difficult to clear the beach of transport. By 0930 hours the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "G" of the 66th Armored Regiment, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Mortar Battalion, Anti-Tank Company and Cannon Company were all in position to support the Infantry throughout the day. The beach was screened by smoke to cover the landings of the LCTs. Enemy batteries firing against the beachhead, were finally silenced by naval gun fire. By nightfall the Regiment was firmly established on Sicilian soil at a cost of twenty-two killed and thirty-six wounded in action.

For the landing west of Licata, Correspondent Michael Chinigo of International News Service accompanied the Regiment. As soon as he was ashore he entered an emplacement which had been captured by "Cotton Balers". The Italian field telephone in the emplacement rang just as he entered. Chinigo picked up the receiver and spoke a few words of questioning in Italian. On the other end of the wire an excited officer at the Italian Army Headquarters in Campobello asked if it were true that Licata was being attacked. Speaking fluent Italian, Chinigo assured the enemy officer that the report was false and that the Allies would not attempt such an enterprise. With his fears quieted for the moment the Italian officer hung up and the amusing incident ended.

At 1550 Colonel Sherman ordered the First Battalion to assume defense of some of the positions held by the Third Battalion so that both battalions would be in better positions to spearhead the next day's attack. The necessary moves were accomplished during the late afternoon and early evening as enemy aircraft bombed and strafed troops. Throughout the night the defensive positions were occupied and maintained. Strong reconnaissance patrols were active and brought in thirty enemy.

The Seventh Infantry had no support from fighter or bomber aircraft over the beach on D-Day, but cub observation planes launched from improvised landing decks on LSTs located enemy artillery positions and aided in coordinating the attacking forces. Enemy planes made sporadic attacks on ships and beach dumps. Some ammunition and supplies were landed at Beach Red, but after D-Day that beach was not used because the sea approaches were unsatisfactory and the only exits were the dry, deep, sandy streambeds.

THE THIRD BATTALION CAPTURES PALMA DI MONTECHIARO

On 11 July at 0200 Colonel Sherman received orders for the Seventh Infantry to capture Palma di Montechiaro and seize the high ground to the west. Accordingly he ordered that the Third Battalion attack at 0430. The jump-off was delayed until 0600 when the Blue Battalion forces crossed the stream, Faci di Palma, which

⁴ GO No. 62, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 Sept. '43. Sgt. Rogers was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵ GO No. 61, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Sept. '43. Pvt. Jojola was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GO No. 53, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 Aug. '43. Capt. Biggers, S/Sgt. Boone, Cpl. Sparks and Pvt. Shipp were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

was used as the line of departure. The First Battalion moved from its defensive positions at 0830 to support the attack and protect the right flank of the Regiment.

The Third Battalion encountered resistance which resulted in sharp, brisk fire fights, and street fighting in Palma di Montechiaro itself. To the south and west of the town the Italians were dug-in in trenches. Treacherous ruses were tried by the Italians at this point. White flags would appear at one end of the trenches. As the Americans would advance to accept the surrender, machine guns at other points would open fire on them. This resulted in a greater loss for the Italians. The Third Battalion forces proceeded to slaughter sixty of them and captured two hundred.

While the battle was in progress Private First Class Lenny A. Macklin of the Medical Detachment crawled through the concentrated machine gun fire to give aid to a corporal wounded in both legs and lying in an exposed position. After rendering first aid, he labored to carry the wounded non-commissioned officer to safe cover.⁷

During the attack on Palma di Montechiaro Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges witnessed the ambushing of an advance party appointed to accept the surrender of the town. He immediately assembled and personally led a tank destroyer squad of ten men to their rescue and ordered the building, in which the ambushing enemy were located, to be demolished. Then after directing that two wounded American soldiers be sent to the rear, he continued the attack on the enemy, killing two, wounding two, effecting the capture of twenty-one enemy and causing the remaining enemy to flee the city in disorder into the surrounding hills, where they were subsequently captured. Although the enemy fire was of such intensity that several of his men were wounded, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges continued to lead the attack. The coolness and gallant conduct he displayed inspired the men to successful accomplishment of the mission.⁸

Private First Class Francis A. Slavik and Private Raymond H. Piper, both of the Medical Detachment, also exhibited extreme gallantry in action on 11 July 1943, during the attack of the Third Battalion. Seeing a seriously wounded American soldier in an open street which was being swept by machine gun, rifle and mortar fire the two medical aid men worked their way forward through the fire to the wounded man's side and with great difficulty moved him to a place of safety.⁹

Following the capture of Palma di Montechiaro, the high ground north and west of the town was occupied at 1330. The First Battalion had been halted on Third Division order north of the town. The Second Battalion was released from attachment to the 15th Infantry and rejoined the Regiment.

On 12 July the Seventh Infantry consolidated its positions west and north of Palma di Montechiaro and confined its activities to foot and motorized patrols. Friendly forces were contacted at Naro, to the north, and patrols operating in the direction of Agrigento brought in some prisoners of war. Two jeeps belonging to the First Battalion were disabled by enemy strafing but no loss to personnel was incurred. Naval and artillery guns fired concentrations in the vicinity of Agrigento and friendly planes dropped bombs on the city.

FIRST BATTALION CONDUCTS RECONNAISSANCE IN FORCE TOWARD AGRIGENTO

At 2200 on July 12 orders were received directing a reconnaissance in force on Agrigento. The plan provided for thirty-five reinforcing two and one-half ton trucks to transport one battalion west on Highway 115, as far as possible, then the reconnaissance was to be pressed on

foot. At 2330 Colonel Sherman assigned the mission to the First Battalion and directed Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore to entruck his troops at 0500, 13 July, proceed west on the highway to detrucking point in advance of the Third Battalion's positions, and from that point, by dismounted action, to conduct the reconnaissance. One battery of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and another from the Second Battalion, 77th Field Artillery Regiment, were ordered to displace forward during the night, go into position in an area two miles west of the detrucking point, and support the advance of the First Battalion.

The First Battalion moved on time and at 0600 detrucked at a point south and west of Monte Narbone. The troops promptly deployed and initiated their reconnaissance in force, with their route of advance paralleling Route No. 115. The maneuver was carried out in the face of strong enemy resistance in the form of small arms, automatic weapons, artillery and mortars, many of which were located. Counter-battery fire was delivered successfully by the supporting artillery. Several casualties were suffered by the assault forces and were evacuated from the battlefields, some of them under the cover of darkness. Enemy fearful of our artillery fire were made prisoners and expressed the belief that they had been subjected to huge volumes of automatic artillery fire. That was the first indication to Seventh Infantry men of the terrific effect of their supporting artillery.

While Company "A" was participating in the reconnaissance at about 1500, Captain Celon A. Peterson went ahead of the line of scouts under enemy fire to locate enemy heavy weapons which were delaying the advance. He succeeded in locating five enemy machine guns upon which he then directed supporting mortar fire which put the weapons out of action and thus permitted his company to continue the advance.⁹

Sergeant John A. Mayo of Company "B" advanced three hundred yards over open ground while under fire to attack singlehandedly an enemy machine gun which he put out of action with hand grenades and his bayonet. Returning to his platoon while still under fire he dragged a wounded soldier to cover and recovered the wounded man's rifle and equipment.¹⁰

The reconnaissance progressed to a line where the Naro River bends to the northwest to Highway 115 and extended two thousand yards southwest. Having accomplished its mission, the First Battalion, on order of Colonel Sherman, withdrew under cover of darkness to an assembly area west of Monte Narbone and near the detrucking point. The reconnaissance had revealed that Agrigento would be difficult to take by frontal attack, inasmuch as its eastern perimeter was strongly defended by at least twelve direct fire, high muzzle velocity weapons, a minimum of one active battalion of field artillery and a number of mortars. Not too much Infantry was in position but frontal attack was indicated as impracticable. During the reconnaissance in force a mule train operated to deliver ammunition and supplies to forward dumps and assisted in moving the rifle battalion into its assembly area. Medical units set up an aid station underneath a bridge at one place which received much hostile artillery fire but without effect.

⁷ GO No. 94, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 Dec. '43. Pfc. Macklin was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸ GO No. 53, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 Aug. '43. Pfc. Slavik was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Lt. Col. Heintges and Pvt. Piper were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹ GO No. 55, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Aug. '43. Capt. Peterson was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁰ GO No. 77, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Oct. '43. Sgt. Mayo was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

SECOND BATTALION TAKES FAVARA WITHOUT OPPOSITION

At 0500, 14 July, Company "E" moved out of the Second Battalion assembly area to determine the enemy situation in Favara, and reached the Naro river. Combat patrols of Company "E" penetrated into Favara without opposition during the day. The remainder of the battalion moved across country at 2030 to catch up with Company "E".

At 2130 14 July, the First Battalion jumped off across country, also in a northwesterly direction, protecting the left flank of the Second Battalion. By dawn the Second Battalion Command Post was established on Hill 533 and the First Battalion was on the high ground south of Favara. Both battalions had traversed over very rugged terrain during the night.

At 0900, 15 July, the Second Battalion attacked with Companies "F" and "G" abreast, "E" in reserve and "H" in support. No opposition was encountered and the troops marched through Favara at 1450 to the high ground of La Montagna to the northwest, which was occupied at 1600.

THE ATTACK ON AGRIGENTO, 15-17 JULY

In the evening of 15 July it was apparent to Colonel Sherman that a rapid aggressive advance would break the thinning outer defenses and uncover Agrigento, the most important city on the south coast of Sicily, as well as Porto Empedocle to the southwest. The First and Second Battalions occupied high ground east of the Naro River and patrolled to the front while the Third Battalion was in reserve northwest of Palma di Montechiaro. The Third Ranger Battalion had become attached to the Seventh Infantry and was in the vicinity of the Second Battalion. Gambling on the speed and endurance of his Infantry battalions and support of attached artillery units, Colonel Sherman audaciously put into play a plan of maneuver that was to bring great success.

The advance was begun with the Third Ranger Battalion and Second Battalion moving around to the north of Agrigento. The Rangers attacked at 1900 and Major Duval's troops jumped off at 2245 for Hill 273 which was taken at 0247, 16 July. The appearance of the Second Battalion on this high ground in the morning was a surprise to the enemy. At 2100 the Third Battalion, in reserve, moved from its position to an area southwest of Favara. Also at 2100 the First Battalion attacked and under the cover of darkness advanced some two thousand yards to the southwest in the direction of Agrigento, setting up defenses on prominent high ground which afforded excellent observation of the route into the city. During that move Company "B" encountered enemy resistance in the form of an outpost with automatic weapons, and destroyed the outpost without suffering any casualties. Twenty-five Italian soldiers were taken prisoners of war. Another outpost was surprised by Company "C" and an additional thirty enemy were captured.

During the morning the First Battalion probed enemy defenses with strong patrols and was subjected to shelling from enemy artillery and mortars. At approximately 0900, 16 July, Company "C" was engaged in aggressive patrolling activities. While working its way forward down a slope enemy artillery fire was directed on the company from positions where the enemy had excellent observation. The fire caught many of the troops in the open without cover and had a demoralizing effect on the company. Observing this, Captain Herman E. Wagner left his position of relative safety at his forward com-

mand post and moved openly to a position from which he directed his men to positions of safety which would not involve a withdrawal from the ground the company held. In this action Captain Wagner was killed by the artillery fire from which he sought to protect his men.¹¹

Corporal Chester R. Swanson left his defiladed position and singlehandedly set up his mortar in the artillery impact area in an effort to observe and destroy an enemy field piece. Ignoring high explosive shells which burst within thirty yards of him, Corporal Swanson adjusted on the enemy weapon twelve hundred yards distant, and succeeded in putting it out of action with a direct hit on his fifth shot.¹²

Private First Class Raymond J. Miller of the Medical Detachment observed the intensive artillery barrage which killed Captain Wagner and severely wounded several men. He left his position of comparative security and advanced over two hundred yards of open ground through artillery fire, remained in the exposed position and administered first aid to the wounded men. Shell fragments flew all about him as he moved from man to man giving first aid.¹³

First Lieutenant Henry H. Hancock of the Medical Detachment observed a soldier of Company "C" who was wounded in the chest by machine gun fire and bleeding profusely. In order for medical aid to be rendered to him it was necessary to move in view of the enemy positions. Lieutenant Hancock worked his way forward and was successful in evacuating the wounded soldier. The speedy rendition of medical aid and the unselfish courageous action of the lieutenant saved the wounded soldier's life.¹⁴

While engaged in a forward reconnaissance mission, Lieutenant Colonel John O. Williams, the Regimental Executive Officer, Sergeant Sanford M. Forbes who had won the Distinguished Service Cross in French Morocco, and Private Maurice Baillargeon were killed in action that morning by ambush. The vehicle was taken by the enemy but on a later day recaptured.

At 1404 Second Battalion observers reported that the enemy was bringing up reinforcements by motor from the Aragona area. Large numbers of the enemy were seen debarking from trucks to the north and deploying for an attack. Artillery was requested which at 1428 commenced concentrating on the enemy forces. Firing ceased at 1537 and was resumed at 1700 for forty-five more minutes. Massed fire from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, in support of the Regiment, and the 58th and 65th Armored Field Artillery Battalions, and the 77th Field Artillery Regiment, attached to the Regiment for the attack on Agrigento, was very effective, caused one hundred casualties on the enemy, destroyed fifty assorted vehicles and stopped the enemy's counter-attack plans. At 1430 Colonel Sherman committed his reserve battalion, the Third, which attacked astride Highway 115, south of Agrigento.

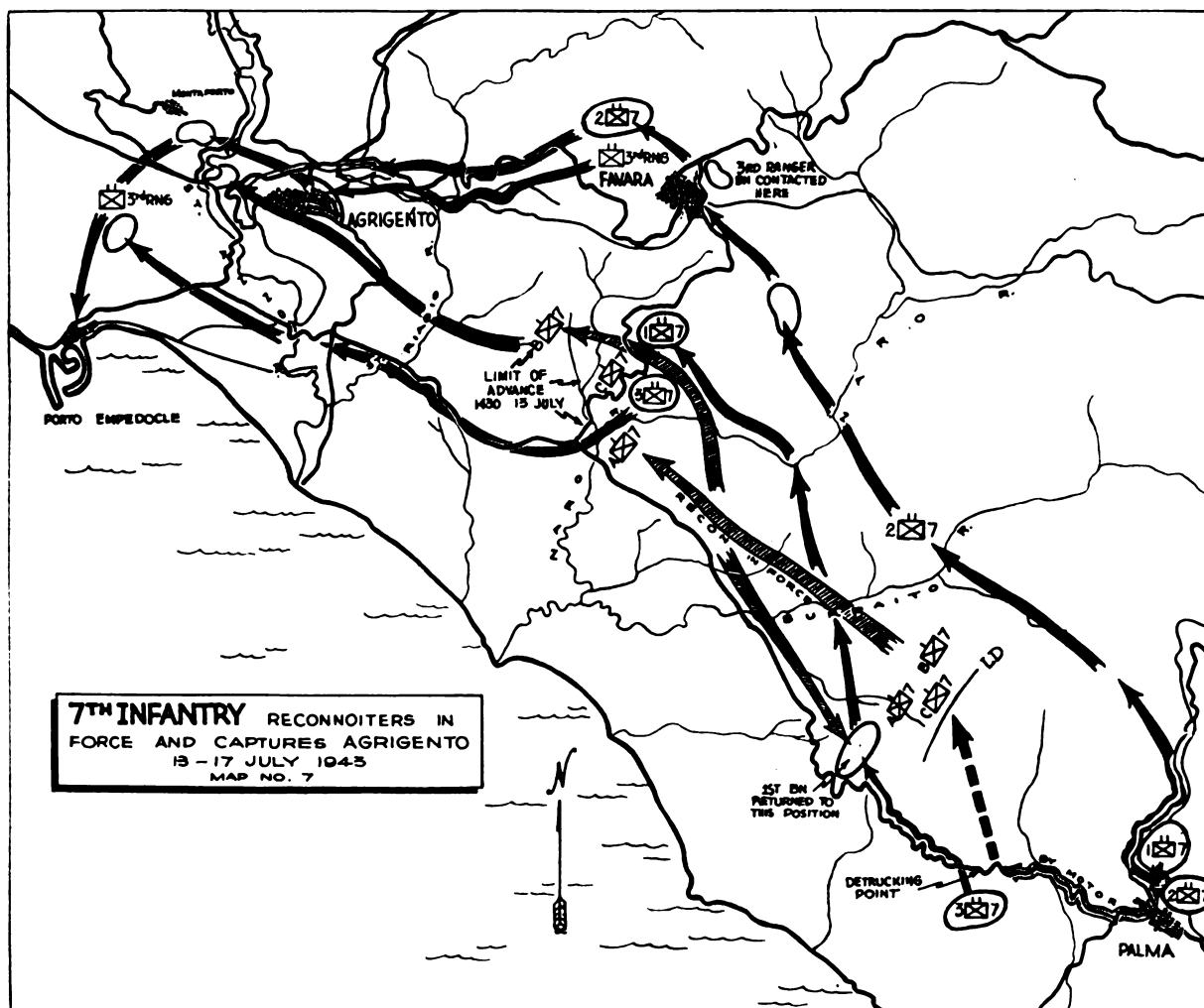
At 1738 Company "G" moved out to attack Hill 333. Staff Sergeant Francis J. Collins led a combat patrol of Company "G" across five hundred yards of open terrain to reconnoiter the hill. Upon reaching the base of the hill he and his men were fired upon by machine guns, rifle fire and hand grenades which wounded one man seriously.

¹¹ GO No. 63, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Sept. '43. Capt. Wagner was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² GO No. 43, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 26 Mar. '44. Cpl. Swanson was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹³ GO No. 69, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Sept. '43. Pfc. Miller was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁴ GO No. 53, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 Aug. '43. 1 Lt. Hancock was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Under a hail of bullets he went forward to make a reconnaissance and plan an attack. Heedless of the fact that the enemy outnumbered his own force by at least five to one and held the heights of the hill, Staff Sergeant Collins ordered his men to attack with fixed bayonets and grenades. Corporal Bert D. Schiele, leader of one of the squads, repeatedly charged the enemy positions, disregarding rifle fire, machine gun fire and hand grenades, and personally inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. The spirited attack led by the two non-commissioned officers resulted in the capturing of over a company of enemy machine gunners and riflemen.¹⁵

Sergeant Roy Langston, leader of a light machine gun section of Company "G", sighted enemy emplacements and retraced his course by crawling about two hundred fifty yards over the bare hill under a hail of small arms and mortar fire. On contacting the attached 81mm mortar section he personally directed the firing on the enemy targets, assisting materially in causing a disorganized retreat of the enemy, superior in number and weapons.¹⁶

The remainder of the Second Battalion moved for Hill 333 and reached it at 2240. Defensive positions were taken up. At 1800 Colonel Sherman sent the First Battalion toward the city of Agrigento. Moving in combat formation the troops of the First Battalion arrived at the outskirts of the city just as darkness was descending. This move was made in the face of enemy small arms fire which was quickly overcome, and approximately

three hundred Italian soldiers were taken prisoners.

Corporal Forrest L. Smith, Jr., of Company "A", armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun and covered by a companion, rushed into a cave and singlehandedly took eight Italian officers and thirty-four enlisted men prisoners. This feat enabled his company to advance more rapidly.¹⁶

At about 1500 Private Robert J. Green, also of Company "A", spotted a camouflaged enemy pillbox forty yards to his right, and, ignoring a machine gun firing from it in his direction, he dispatched the operator with one round from his M-1. He emptied the clip of his M-1 as he walked towards the pillbox, then fired his .45 automatic pistol. Twelve of the occupants were forced to surrender. He killed four others who refused to surrender by tossing a hand grenade inside the pillbox.¹⁷

Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore ordered his command to enter the city and against heavy opposition from small arms and automatic weapons, the entire First Battalion stormed into Agrigento, engaging the enemy in

¹⁵ GOs No. 61, 62, 63, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4, 6 and 8 Sept. '43. S/Sgt. Collins, Sgt. Langston and Cpl. Schiele were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁶ GO No. 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. '44. Cpl. Smith was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ GO No. 117, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 June '44. Pvt. Green was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

vigorous street fighting wherever the advances of its troops were challenged. Headquarters Company First Battalion and the Medical Detachment followed the assault closely, being only several hundred yards behind the rifle companies. A call was sent back by an 81mm mortar crew for ammunition which was located on a jeep in the rear of the battalion. As the driver of the vehicle was not present when the call for ammunition was repeated as urgent, Private First Class Claude R. Miller of the Medical Detachment left his position with his unit, which was one of comparative safety, and drove the ammunition vehicle up the street to the mortar position in the midst of heavy sniper fire. His prompt action enabled the mortars to fire on their target and thus permit the column to advance again.¹⁸

Many Italian soldiers were taken prisoners during the advance through the outskirts of the city, and were marched in column immediately behind the assault elements up to the civic center of Agrigento, at which point the Italian General Lauredis technically surrendered his command, including two thousand seven hundred troops, to Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore. The general and his staff were dispatched to Third Infantry Division Headquarters, under escort, at 2300. By 0030, 17 July, the entire city was under control.

In the meantime the Third Battalion advanced rapidly west of Highway 115 against scattered resistance and seized the key terrain commanding Porto Empedocle which it occupied at 1900, after Agrigento had been encircled from the north and west against only minor opposition. During the advance the Blue Battalion forces captured over twelve hundred enemy soldiers including forty officers. Eight enemy coastal emplacements with guns pointed seaward were overrun. A motor patrol from the Third Battalion accepted the surrender of the town of Siculiana, ten miles west of Porto Empedocle on Highway 115, at 0200, 17 July.

At 0145, 17 July, on order of the Commanding Officer, the First Battalion moved around the city and organized a defensive position on the commanding ground on the northern edge of Agrigento. At 0400, friendly reconnaissance discovered an enemy armored patrol approaching Agrigento from the west, and the battalion was alerted and moved higher up the face of the bluffs at the edge of the city. The battalion commander requested the assistance of Cannon Company. A combat squad of Company "B" was dispatched to the scene with anti-tank grenades. As a result of the action on the part of this combat squad, three light Italian tanks were captured, with their crews intact. Additional reconnaissance revealed no more enemy to be active in the immediate area. The First Battalion then moved across country through Monteperto to an assembly area in the vicinity of Gardina.

The advances of the rifle battalions were superb examples of endurance, control and determination on the part of all officers and men and reflected great credit on the units. The capture of Agrigento where the main enemy strength in southern Sicily was located, netted the Regiment six thousand prisoners in all, fifty assorted field pieces and one hundred vehicles, including tanks, trucks and armored cars. Besides, many human casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The Regimental Combat Team was now free to turn inland towards the center of Sicily.

Company "C", which had been dis-

patched to conduct the thousands of prisoners to the rear, rejoined the First Battalion in the vicinity of Gardina. Under cover of darkness of the night 17-18 July the First Battalion moved to positions two miles south of Raffadali. Patrols found the town clear of the enemy. By noon 18 July the Regiment concentrated in the vicinity of Raffadali and conducted aggressive patrols. A platoon of Company "B" supported by artillery fire knocked out a road block five miles northwest of Raffadali. Company "E" moved north along Highway 118 to the Platani River to determine the enemy situation and condition of the roads. The company set up defensive positions on Hill 430 on both sides of the highway. A motor patrol from Company "F" proceeded to San Elisabetta, Angelo Maxara and the Platani River where bridges were found blown.

THE ADVANCE ON PALERMO

On 18 July 1943, Joss Force was dissolved and the Third Infantry Division reverted to its normal strength. Provisional Corps ordered the Division to advance on Palermo. General Truscott allowed the Infantry five days to cover the one hundred miles to the capital city. The Seventh Infantry was placed in reserve as the 15th and 30th Regiments and the Third Ranger Battalion started the Division's drive north from Aragona and captured Casteltermini, San Stefano Quisquina and Castronovo. At 1900, 20 July, the Regiment shuttled the First and Second Battalions forward by motor through Aragona and Casteltermini to a detrucking point four miles north of Castronovo. The two battalions then moved two miles by foot in the direction of Prizzi to assembly areas.

THIRD BATTALION SEIZES PRIZZI AND CORLEONE

At 0605 the Third Battalion jumped off in the main and frontal assault along the highway to Prizzi while at 0705 the First Battalion attacked along the right flank. The advance of both battalions was hindered by spotted resistance and there were several skirmishes, which resulted in the capture of many Italian soldiers. At 0940

¹⁸ GO No. 55, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Aug. '43. Pfc. Miller was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



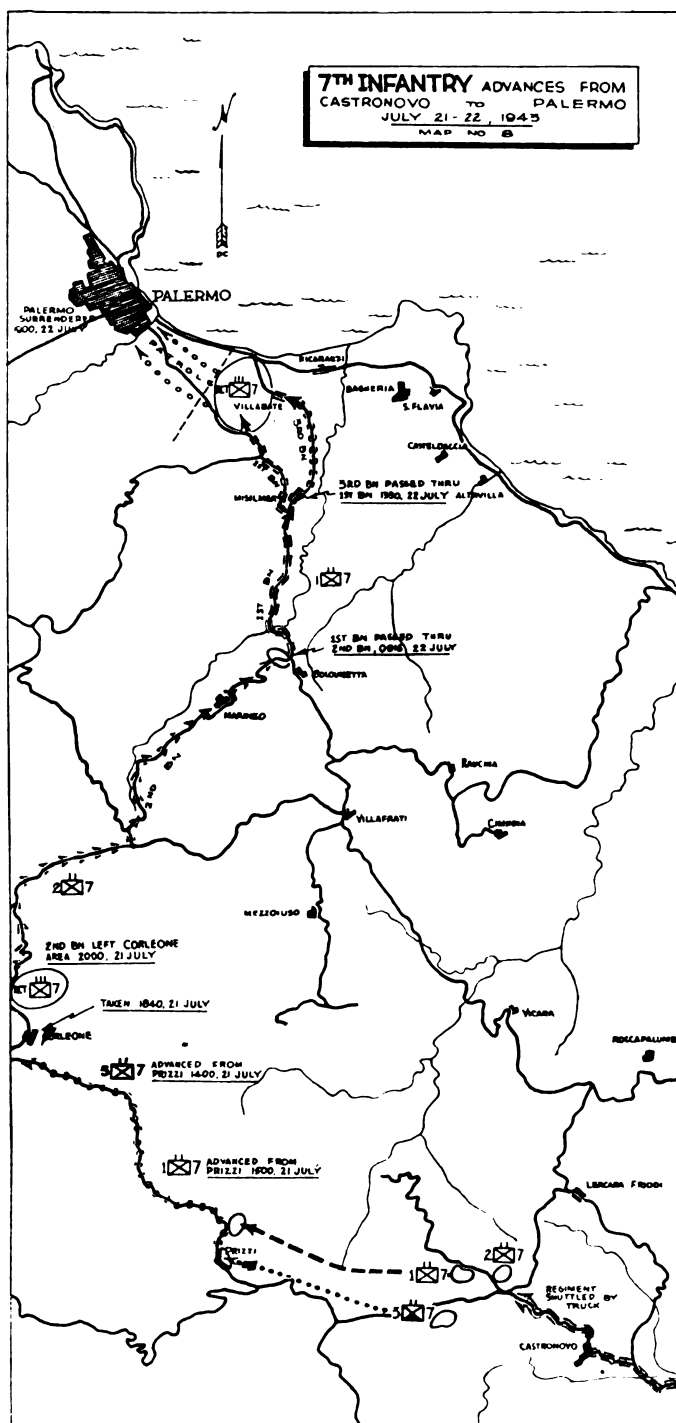
"Cotton Balers" march through Corleone, Sicily, 21 July 1943.

the Third Battalion was in possession of Prizzi and had taken a total of five hundred prisoners of war which included an entire Italian cavalry squadron complete with mounts and equipment. Nearly two hundred horses and mules, and two large calibre mobile guns were among the captured materiel. Members of the Third Battalion were happy over their success. Shortly after the capture General Truscott, an ex-Cavalryman, appeared on the scene. While he conversed with Lieutenant Colonel Heintges about a hundred members of the Third Battalion suddenly appeared around the brow of a hill riding and leading their captured animals. The Commanding General exclaimed: "My God, what is that?" When told of the success and booty, he then ordered that the men dismount from the horses, with the remark: "You know, Heintges, we are still Infantry." It was shortly after that that the Third Battalion accomplished one of its great feats of the Sicilian Campaign by covering thirty-two miles on foot in less than twenty-four hours over the rugged Sicilian country.

Company "C" led the First Battalion advance, and was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel Moore. At one point the leading element, the First Platoon under the command of Second Lieutenant William J. Melgard, was suddenly fired on by two enemy machine guns at about three hundred yards range. Lieutenant Colonel Moore ordered Second Lieutenant Melgard to dispatch a squad to destroy the guns, on a flanking maneuver. The First Squad led by Sergeant Richard G. Hofelich was given the mission. Sergeant Hofelich led his squad up a hill in an attempt to flank the positions of the two enemy machine guns that were impeding the company's advance. One gun one hundred yards away suddenly directed intense fire at the group. Instructing his men to take cover Sergeant Hofelich crawled to within thirty yards of the gun and while bullets barely missed him stood up and hurled two grenades, knocking out the gun and killing the crew of two. He then killed two enemy riflemen acting as security for the other gun, and his squad after a short fire fight captured nine more riflemen. Led by Sergeant Hofelich, the squad charged the second machine gun nest fifty yards distant and forced the crew of six to surrender.¹⁹

The Second Battalion which moved from the entrucking point at 0130, 21 July, was in mobile reserve during the advance of the assaulting battalions and joined the Regiment in Prizzi at 1145. At 1400 the Third Battalion again took up the advance and moved along Highway 118 for Corleone. The First Battalion followed at 1500 and the Second Battalion continued to be held in mobile reserve. During these moves the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, with the 58th and 9th Field Artillery Battalions attached, leapfrogged forward and delivered fire ahead of the Infantry battalions as needed. Enemy resistance was weak and disorganized and by 1840 the Third Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, had seized Corleone and two thousand enemy soldiers.

¹⁹ GO No. 215, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Oct. '44. Sgt. Hofelich was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



SECOND BATTALION SEIZES MARINEO

From Corleone Major Duvall's Second Battalion assumed the Regimental lead and by a forced night march against only slight resistance seized Marineo during the early hours of 21 July and halted on order about a mile north of the town at 0915.

The First Battalion moved by truck out of the Corleone assembly area at 0730 on the 22nd to a point beyond Marineo and detrucked. Lieutenant Colonel

Moore's troops pushed through the Second Battalion and marched at a forced pace up Route 121 to Misilmeri. Reorganization was effected on the northern outskirts of the town.

Cannon Company after protecting the move of the First Battalion through the Second Battalion at the road junction of Highways 118 and 121, departed on a forward reconnaissance mission. It encountered a road block two miles north of Misilmeri on Highway 121, where it knocked out two 88mm. high velocity weapons and one 179mm gun, thus clearing the way for the advance of the Infantry. At 1230, 22 July, the First Battalion deployed and started an advance over the high ground to the northwest in the face of small arms and automatic weapons fire which was delivered by the enemy defending positions on the heights. Aggressive action overcame the resistance and the battalion captured the objective with some fifty German soldiers and a like number of Italian soldiers, a large quantity of war materiel, ammunition and explosive dumps and some new and recently installed large bore coastal defense guns.

The Third Battalion had in turn entrucked and motor marched north through Misilmeri to Villabate where the troops detrucked at 1400 hours. The battalion established itself in strong defensive positions and sent out patrols which encountered sporadic rifle and mortar fire from enemy occupying defensive positions and from other enemy groups attempting to escape along the coastal highway toward Messina. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy in killed, wounded and captured and the Third Battalion forces penetrated the city limits of Palermo at 1619 hours to be first into the capital city. At 1840 hours organized resistance in Palermo ceased with

the surrender of the Sicilian commanding general to Captain William R. Hicks. At 2030 hours the Second Battalion moved into the city and took over the dock area to prevent damage to installations. During the day's advance 3,500 enemy were captured, the majority by the Third Battalion, and much valuable enemy materiel was captured.

22 July 1943, was another great day for the glorious Seventh Infantry when it captured Palermo, the capital city of Sicily. It was another first to the long record list acquired by the Regiment down through the years. Will Lang, the war correspondent, in writing of it, had this to say: "As the various American forces approached Palermo, Patton defined a blue phase line just four miles short of the city beyond which no Infantry, excepting patrols, were to go. Patton's tanks had been chosen to make the victorious entry into the island's capital. This they did, with banners flying and cameras, grinding. But inside the city they found the Third Division's Lieutenant Colonel John Heintges and his entire battalion quietly patrolling the streets."²⁰

It is said by some that General Patton was displeased to find that Seventh Infantrymen had stolen Palermo so to speak. It was not defiance to orders that led to capture of the city by the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, but a military necessity. Because of the aggressiveness of the Seventh Infantry one of its units was in the most advantageous position to capture the important city. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges was unaware of it but destiny was to have him figure most prominently in even a more important "military steal" nearly two years later when the great "Cotton Baler" Regiment would end its combat days for World War II.

CHAPTER II

The Drive Along the North Coast of Sicily

Following the capture and occupation of Palermo, the attachments to the Seventh Infantry which had assisted in the drive of the Regiment reverted to their parent organizations. The Second Battalion remained on guard duty in the city until relieved on 26 July, when it joined other units of the Regiment in the Villabate bivouac. On 24 July Company "L" was detached to the control of Third Infantry Division Headquarters and moved to the Prizzi Prisoner of War Inclosure for guard duty. Two days later the entire First Battalion was detached from control of the Regiment and relieved Company "L". Activity of the remainder of the Regiment during the period consisted of re-equipping and normal duties. Rest and relaxation were enjoyed.

On 25 July Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore assumed the duties of Regimental Executive Officer and a former "Cotton Baler", Major Frank M. Izenour, destined to become one of the greatest battalion commanders the Regiment has ever seen, assumed command of the First or Red Battalion.

Ordered to move to a new bivouac in the vicinity of Altavilla Milicia, the Seventh Infantry minus the First Battalion closed out of the Villabate bivouac at 0600 27 July. During the course of the movement the Third Battalion was ordered by higher headquarters to proceed to an area five miles east of Termini Imerese. The Second Battalion and separate units closed into the Altavilla Milicia bivouac area at 1000 and the Third Battalion continued on to its assigned area, closing in at 1300.

The Third Battalion was given the mission of patrolling to the east on Highway 113 to contact the 45th Infantry Division, and to patrol the beach area in its vicinity.

On 30 July 1943, the Third Battalion engaged in a scheduled recreational swimming period near Termini Imerese, following a mountain climbing exercise. Second Lieutenant Charles L. Treadway, Staff Sergeant Jim L. Dudley and Private Moran, all of "I" Company, got out into deep water and in attempting to return to shallower waters became exhausted and nearly drowned while combatting the undertow. The three exhausted men were rescued by Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges, Technical Sergeant Joseph Punska, Private First Class Elbert T. Worthington and Private William H. Miller.¹

Regimental activities in the Altavilla Milicia area consisted of routine guard duty, replacing and refurbishing equipment lost and damaged during the stress of battle, and, basic training exercises including combat firing. Athletics were featured and all possible recreation was provided to assist in maintaining morale and physical condition at a high level. Chaplains Dyreson and Horne were zealous in spiritual matters, holding church services at

²⁰ Lang, "Lucian King Truscott, Jr.", Life Magazine, 20 Oct. '44, p. 106.

¹ GO No. 118, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 14 June '44, Lt. Col. Heintges, T/Sgt. Punska, Pfc. Worthington and Pvt. Miller were each awarded the Soldier's Medal.

every opportunity. Music and singing were enjoyed as many of the men had acquired Sicilian accordians and guitars.

At Prizzi, the First Battalion improved and extended prisoner of war enclosures on barren, easily guarded hills, with emphasis on cleanliness and sanitation. Utilizing prisoner labor, a guard area was developed in a grove on the banks of a clear mountain stream. Thousands of women gathered outside the cages searching for loved ones and joined with their men in a spontaneous demonstration of relief and happiness when erroneous grapevine reports, that Italy had surrendered, spread through the camp like wildfire. The Second Armored Division units relieved the battalion on 31 July and it entrucked for the eighty-mile ride to the Altavilla Milicia assembly area and rejoined the Regiment on 1 August.

During the week the Seventh Infantry bivouaced in Villabate and Altavilla Milicia, and other units of the Third Infantry Division also rested, the 45th Infantry Division had pushed off to the east toward Messina but encountered heavy resistance. By the time the 45th had reached San Stefano Camastra the high command decided to relieve it with the Third Infantry Division.

On 1 August 1943, the Seventh Infantry commenced movement to the front once more and at 1630 was assembled in the vicinity of Pollina. Initially the Seventh Infantry was in reserve as the Third Division committed the 15th and 30th Regiments. During the night of 3-4 August the Regiment displaced forward by trucks to a new assembly area in the vicinity of Caronia where it remained in readiness on the 4th to pass through the 15th Infantry, then operating on the Furiano River line. Forward reconnaissance was also accomplished on that day. Forty-seven replacements consisting of two officers and forty-five enlisted men joined the Regiment.

The enemy fought a strong delaying action and progress of the Division was slow along the coast road. During the night 4-5 August the Second Battalion took up defensive positions on high ground west of the Furiano River directly behind the positions of the 15th Infantry, which regiment was experiencing considerable difficulty with the enemy. At 0930 hours on 6 August the First and Second Battalions of the 15th Infantry crossed the Furiano River and succeeded in gaining a foothold, only to encounter mortar and artillery fire of such severity as to make their positions untenable. During the afternoon a counter-attack by the enemy forced these units of the Third Infantry Division to the west bank of the river. The Second Battalion of the Seventh Infantry covered the withdrawal of these forces which was accomplished by 2200 hours, when the Second Battalion reverted to the control of the Regiment.

Strong opposition across the entire front held up the Third Division advance along the coast. The enemy used heavy concentrations of artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. A local counterattack by the enemy north of San Fratello prevented any further advance during the day.

To dislodge the stubborn enemy from San Fratello and the ridges, higher headquarters planned to commit the Seventh Infantry, as the Second Battalion, 30th Infantry, reinforced, would make a behind-the-lines amphibious landing three miles east of San Agata.

On 7 August Colonel Sherman received orders for the Regiment to attack through the 15th Infantry across the Furiano River and continue the advance east on Highway 113. Accordingly the Third Battalion was moved forward to the vicinity of the Second Battalion during the evening.

Enemy strength was concentrated in the narrow coastal plain sector through which one good highway

paralleled the coast line. A short distance inland mountains rose precipitately to commanding heights surmounted in many instances with fortress-like ancient towns. Adding to the strength of enemy defenses were the rivers, which ran north to the sea every few miles. While dry at this season of the year, each could be a formidable obstacle when the stream beds and approaches were heavily mined and covered by mortar, machine gun and artillery fire.

To screen the movements of the Seventh Infantry, for the attack on Fratello ridge, arrangements were made for a smoke screen five hundred meters in length, but it was not needed. After a thorough artillery preparation which aided in softening up the enemy for the foot troops, the Second Battalion jumped off at 0600, 8 August 1943, stormed across the Furiano River and was followed one hour later by the Third Battalion. Knocking out enemy strong points the Second Battalion troops plunged into Acquedolci at 0753 where a number of Italian and German soldiers were taken prisoners, and at 1115 seized Sant'Agata. There the advance was halted on order of Division until artillery units could displace forward.

Shortly afternoon the Third Battalion passed through the Second Battalion and proceeded east following Highway 113 to the Rosmarino River which was lightly defended, though the bridges crossing it were demolished. The Third Battalion contacted troops of the Second Battalion 30th Infantry at 1605 and crossed the Rosmarino at 1915 encountering accurate machine gun,



Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., commanding U. S. 7th Army, looks at Pvt. Frank Read, 7th U. S. Infantry, at the Agrigento Airdrome on 25 July 1943. Pvt. Read suffered from shrapnel wounds and with others waited for evacuation by air to Africa for medical treatment.

mortar and artillery fire in effecting the crossing. The battalion set up defensive positions on the high ridge to the east. The Second Battalion advanced to an

assembly area adjacent to the highway, on the west side of the river. Both battalions conducted active patrols along the roads and to the beaches. San Fratello fell to forces of the 30th and 15th Regiments.

The pressure placed on the enemy by all units of the Third Infantry Division compelled him to withdraw from the road south of San Fratello and east of Di Zappula River. The enemy defenses had been bitter and determined and it was only after the full weight of superior fire power and maneuvering was brought to bear, that he withdrew. Patrol reconnaissance showed the presence of enemy tanks and Infantry formations to the south and east. To counter such a threat Company "G" and a platoon of Anti-Tank Company established a road block at Militello Rosmarino at 1700 hours. Motorized patrols southeast to Alcera Li Fusi captured sixty Italian soldiers after a brief skirmish.

The enemy was conducting a continuous rear guard action along the entire front. At this time the Third and Ninth Infantry Divisions were consolidating elements in preparation for a coordinated attack against known enemy positions.

At 0200, 9 August the First Battalion moved forward from its Caronia area in organic transportation and at 0530 detrucked in Sant'Agata. At 0700 the First Battalion supported by heavy artillery preparations crossed the Rosmarino River and passed the Third Battalion on its ridge positions, continuing the attack of the Regiment east along Highway 113. Progress was slow due to accurate hostile machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. Local envelopments featured the advance.

At one place Company "B" was held up by enemy behind a stone wall, after the leading scouts had become wounded. Company "C" maneuvered to the left into the sea in water chest high and together the two companies assaulted and knocked out the enemy opposition.

The First Battalion pursued the withdrawing enemy and engaged the foe in delaying positions, suffering medium casualties. Opposition was overcome and several German and Italian soldiers were captured. When contact with the retreating foe was lost the Red Battalion assembled east of Terranova and sent strong patrols forward to regain and maintain contact with the enemy.

At 1240, 9 August, the Third Battalion left its ridge position east of the Rosmarino River and attacked to the northeast via the rugged hills north of San Marco D'Alunzio. Only slight resistance was encountered initially by the troops who advanced so rapidly over the rugged terrain that Regimental Headquarters was not always informed of their exact location. Once that day three battalions of our own American artillery laid in on the battalion and caused much havoc. The radio belonging to the forward observer from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion was knocked out and the observer himself became a casualty. The Commanding Officer of the Third Battalion succeeded in getting a "cease firing" order back to the Regimental Command Post where an officer had been directing the fire by map only. At first Lieutenant Colonel Heintges was censured for stopping the artillery shoot but being on the spot he knew where the shells were falling and being in command there he was obliged to save his men from slaughter by their own supporting weapons. After a reorganization was effected the Third Battalion drove on and crowned the heights of Monte Baebuzza, one mile east of Capri Leone, at 1830. While located there four German 88s and mortars firing on First Battalion troops were observed and taken under fire. The enemy returned fire and inflicted a number of casualties on the Blue Battalion forces which included Second Lieutenant Wilbur V. Hamm. The battalion also became engaged with enemy machine gunners and snipers on both flanks.

At 1625 the same day the Second Battalion pushed across the Rosmarino River and occupied San Marco D'Alunzio an hour later. Patrols from the White Battalion contacted a platoon of the 30th Infantry whose location on a ridge one mile northeast of the town was not known by its parent organization. The Second Battalion remained in San Marco D'Alunzio during the night.

The Third Battalion overcame its resistance and at 2100 moved from its positions on the northwestern slopes of Monte Baebuzza. At 2215 the troops occupied the high ground astride the unimproved road from Capri Leone to Highway 113 overlooking Di Zappula River. The troops had to be supplied by mule train and during the attempt four of the animals fell over a cliff when they lost their balance. After many very trying hours the Third Battalion entered Capri Leone then sent a reinforced platoon to Mirlo. Both towns were found clear of the enemy. In Capri Leone the dog-tired thirsty men found water.

CROSSING OF DI ZAPPULA RIVER AND CAPTURE OF HILL DI MARCO

The First Battalion attempted to cross Di Zappula River before daylight 10 August but failed in its initial attempt when a concealed trip wire discharged, in a series of blasts over a wide area, about eight German Teller mines which had been prepared as booby traps. These explosions killed seven men and wounded fifteen of the First Platoon of Company "B", the assault company, and threw the rest of the company into disorganization.

Private Bernard W. Heidemann of Company "B" was seriously wounded but refused to be evacuated and remained behind to cover the withdrawal of Company "B". He remained under the heavy fire for several hours and greatly assisted the other elements of the battalion in establishing the bridgehead and seizing the objective, as well as enabling Company "B" to withdraw.²

Private First Class Durward H. Moore of Company "B" voluntarily rescued four of approximately thirty casualties inflicted on his company by heavy enemy artillery fire. Although he was wounded in the arm after performing his third rescue, he led a litter squad to another casualty, and then picked up still another wounded soldier unaided on his way back.³

After regrouping and clearing a path with mine detector equipment the First Battalion effected a crossing at 0500 in the face of concentrated mortar, artillery and automatic weapons fire and drove across the flat terrain to the base of Hill Di Marco. The forward elements of Staff Sergeant Glenn S. Foote's platoon of Company "C" were crossing a wall when a loud explosion occurred which killed one man and wounded several others. Without hesitation Staff Sergeant Foote climbed over the wall into the mine field to find safe passage for the remainder of the platoon. In his reconnaissance he discharged another mine trap and lost his life. His courage and devotion to duty reflected the highest traditions of the military service.⁴

From commanding and well prepared positions the enemy poured withering fire down on the attacking troops, inflicting heavy casualties. Intense enemy shell concentrations nullified the heroic efforts of wire crews

² GO No. 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Sept. '43. Pvt. Heidemann was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³ GO No. 29, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Jan. '45. Pfc. Moore was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴ GO No. 73, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Oct. '43. S/Sgt. Foote was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

to maintain telephone communications. Because radios were out of order, no artillery support could be summoned, and, due to lack of ammunition, suitable positions and observation, Company "D" could render only limited support with its heavy weapons. Nevertheless, the assaulting rifle companies, "A" and "C", finally wrested positions on the summit of Hill Di Marco inflicting casualties on the enemy. Company "B" took up positions to the northwest of Highway 113 opposite Hill Di Marco and reorganized.

At 1000, 10 August, before Companies "A" and "C" could fully organize defensive positions, the enemy subjected the two companies to heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire, then launched a strong counter-attack with two hundred Infantrymen, which forced back the "Cotton Baler" riflemen, whose supply of

Wendt of the Medical Detachment left his position of comparative safety and crawled across an open space swept by machine gun and small arms fire to render first aid to a wounded man. Leaving the casualty in a position of cover, he returned to his former position only to observe that the man had been wounded again by a sniper. Again he crawled across the bullet swept area and was engaged in rendering first aid a second time when he lost his life due to the sniper's fire. Private Wendt's complete disregard for his own personal safety in performing his act of heroism was an inspiration to all and contributed much to the morale and determination of the "Cotton Baler" troops. Private Wendt was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷

Technician Fifth Grade Frederic R. Geer, Private First Class Orville L. Gunderson and Privates Curtis G. Hagen



Four of the 93 "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 9-11 August 1943, the Regiment's worst days in Sicily. From left to right: 1 Lt. Daniel L. Dunkelberger of Co. "L", Pvt. Linn W. Hallett, Jr. of Co. "F", 1 Lt. John E. Putnam of Co. "M" and 1 Lt. Paul C. Murphy of Co. "I".

ammunition was nearly exhausted. The troops resisted the enemy desperately and gave ground slowly and stubbornly as personnel of the Battalion Headquarters Company and heavy weapons crews assisted in building up a line of resistance. Continued enemy pressure forced the riflemen back about five hundred yards from their point of farthest advance. On the lower slopes, in exposed positions, the "Cotton Balermen" held firm.

Corporal Emanuel F. Wadkins of Company "C" so inspired six other men with him by his determined courage that the group held off, for twenty-four hours, a superior enemy force supported by three machine guns. Four of the group became wounded but all enemy counter-attacks failed. Corporal Wadkins personally knocked out one of the machine guns, killed the gunner and wounded three other members of the crew with rifle fire at about one hundred yards range. He also ran twenty yards through small arms fire in order to rescue a wounded comrade.⁵

Corporal Arnold G. Nelson of Company "B" and Corporal Alan H. Wellingham of Company "C" displayed heroic actions during the counter-attack and after, when movements among enemy positions indicated preparation for another counter-attack. Rifle and machine gun fire was striking heavily about the friendly positions when the two men volunteered to stand up exposed to act as observers for their companies. They stayed at their posts, refusing to take cover, and after some two hours in the positions were killed by enemy machine gun fire. Their heroic, unselfish actions were an inspiration to all.⁶

During the height of the battle Private Herman A.

and Charles T. Pearson, all of the Medical Detachment, rendered rapid and competent care to wounded personnel during the progress of the battle.⁸

Private Phillip T. St. Pierre of Company "D" on one occasion volunteered to get an ammunition mule which ran out into an open field when its leader was shot. The distance covered by Private St. Pierre was about two hundred yards. The ground was exposed to enemy observation and was covered by enemy machine gun and sniper fire. He succeeded in catching the mule and delivered its load of ammunition, which was badly needed, to his platoon while under heavy fire.⁸

A messenger with fresh radio batteries reached the artillery liaison officer who directed the first friendly artillery fire of the day at 1245, which fell in heavy concentrations to the front of the First Battalion and broke up the counter-attack.

Such a volume of fire was delivered by American batteries into German positions on Hill Di Marco that "dog-faces" who participated in the battle called the hill the "Million Dollar Ridge" from their own estimate as to the cost of the shells expended and casualties incurred.

⁵ GO No. 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. '44. Cpl. Wadkins was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

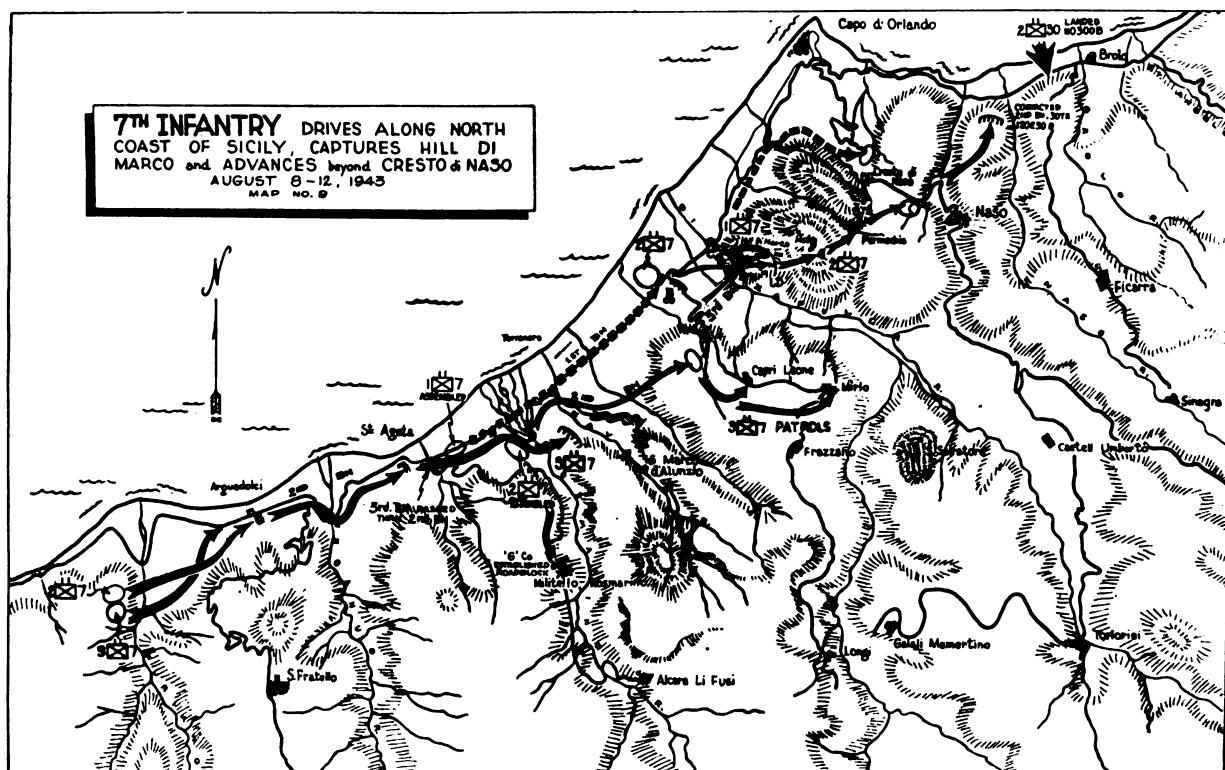
⁶ GO No. 73, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Oct. '43. Cpls. Nelson and Wellingham were both posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷ For authority see GO 37, Hqrs., 7th Army, 16 Nov. '43.

⁸ GOs No. 63 & 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 & 9 Sept. '43. T/5 Geer, Pfc. Gunderson, Pvts. Hagen, Pearson and St. Pierre were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

While the fight for Hill Di Marco was going on the Second Battalion moved from San Marco D'Alunzio to Highway 113, then east on the highway to a forward

At 2330, 10 August, the Third Ranger Battalion was attached to the Seventh Infantry and was ordered to join the First Battalion near Di Zappulla River. Plan of action for 11 August called for a move on the part of the Second Battalion from its assembly area to a line of departure on the eastern slope of Hill Di Marco occupied by the Third Battalion, from there the Second Battalion was to jump off in an attack at 0600 and capture the towns of Malo, Pernicchia and Cresta Di Naso. The Third Battalion was to follow the Second in the attack



Several members of the service forces of the Regiment performed gallantly to serve and supply the front line riflemen and the heavy weapons crews. Staff Sergeant

SECOND BATTALION CAPTURES MALO AND PERNICCHIA, 11 AUGUST 1943

9 GOs No. 61, 63, 64, 113 & 22. HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4, 8 & 9 Sept., 29 Dec. '43 & 16 Feb. '44. S/Sgt. Larsen (posthumously), S/Sgt. Winans, T/5 Theodore, Pvts. Fetto, Grimes and Riley were each awarded the Silver Star Medal. Pvt. Grimes was also awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

which the Second Battalion checked its advance to reorganize. The Third Battalion pressed forward to the rear of the Second Battalion.

At 1410 in accordance with orders from Third Infantry Division Headquarters, the Second Battalion was ordered to discontinue the advance on Cresta Di Naso, and to push with utmost speed against a hostile counter-attacking force threatening the Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry, which had effected a landing one mile west of Brolo behind enemy lines at 0300 that day. The battalion commander received the order at 1500 by artillery liaison plane, and fifteen minutes later initiated the advance from Pernicchia. After a forced march leading elements of the Second Battalion reached Highway 113, two miles west of Brolo, at midnight, without contacting the enemy. The battalion patrolled to the east and west on Highway 113 to gain contact with the "Friscan" Battalion which was accomplished at 0230. However other elements of the "Friscan" Regiment attacking from Orlando had already reached the Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry.

Following the Second Battalion jump-off from Pernicchia the Third Battalion initiated an attack on Cresta Di Naso and captured it at 1830, 11 August. During the attack First Lieutenant David N. Murdock, commanding officer of Company "I", was killed and First Lieutenant Charles L. Treadway was wounded in the shoulder. Lieutenant Treadway refused to be evacuated and

falling debris and rendered medical aid to the wounded, as shells continued to burst in the immediate vicinity. As the barrage rolled forward and another company came under fire the two men again ran into a shelled area and assisted the wounded.¹¹

During the days of 12 and 13 August, the Regimental Combat Team devoted its efforts to reorganization in the vicinity of Cresta Di Naso. The Second Platoon of Anti-Tank Company (57mm) was attached to the Third Reconnaissance Troop on the 12th, going into position on Highway 116 five miles south of Naso. The next day the platoon was released from attachment and rejoined its company.

While the Regiment reorganized and remained in division reserve sister regiments advanced on Cape Calava and Patti. On 14 August the Seventh Infantry and attachments were ordered to assemble in the vicinity of Falcone and be prepared to pass through the 15th Infantry then engaged in the vicinity of Furnari. Cannon Company embarked on LCTs in the vicinity of Brolo at 1600 on the 14th and the remainder of the combat team moved by reinforced transportation at 1715. The truck convoy passed through stone walled towns where crowds thronged windows, from which white sheet-flags fluttered. Leading elements reached Oliveri at 1900 hours and by 2230 the Regiment was completely closed in. From Oliveri the troops marched through Falcone to an area about one mile west of Furnari, where it went into position at 0230 hours on 15 August. The highway and area were subjected to intermittent artillery and mortar fire during the night. Company "B", 753rd Tank Battalion, (less one platoon), was attached to the Regiment.

THE COASTAL DRIVE TOWARD MESSINA

Commencing with daylight on 15 August, the Seventh Infantry threw its full power into the final drive for the city of Messina. In two days and two nights it advanced forty miles to crowd the last of the Germans off the island of Sicily. The general strategy was the same as in the capture of Palermo, where the attack was made astride a main highway with a spearhead of Infantry supported by artillery, armor, anti-tank and engineer units, as needed, to eliminate or assist in overcoming enemy resistance. Additional Infantry battalions took care of enemy strong points on the flank or enveloped positions too difficult to capture by frontal assault. They also relieved lead troops so that assault elements went into reserve after a battle. Every effort was made to restore highways to service with the least possible delay so that motor transportation could be used for shuttling troops forward, and a constant stream of supply could be maintained. In the Messina drive one flank was protected by the sea and the task of securing columns from counter-attack was less arduous.

At 0600, 15 August, the Seventh Infantry launched its final drive of the Sicilian Campaign. At that hour the Third Battalion on the north and the First Battalion on the south crossed the river line east of Furnari which was the line of departure.

THIRD BATTALION CAPTURES BARCELLONA, MERI AND SAN LUCIA. 15 AUGUST 1943

The Third Battalion, spearheading the attack along Highway 113, punched its way into Barcellona and



KILLED IN ACTION

Pfc. Forrest L. Wimsett, of
Company "I", on 12 August
1943.

took command of the company. Largely due to his aggressive leadership the company took its immediate objective. At dawn the following day his leadership again enabled the company to defeat an enemy counter-attack.¹⁰ The Third Rangers, who were ordered at 1410 to move forward from Hill Di Marco and assist the Second Battalion in the rescue mission toward Brolo, were late in receiving the orders, due to failure of communications. The Rangers, who did not leave Hill Di Marco until 1725, reached Malo at midnight and at 0400, 12 August, were in a position one mile northeast of Naso, astride the Naso-Orlando road.

The First Battalion marched during the night from Hill Di Marco to high ground between Orlando and Cresta Di Naso.

During the morning while the Second Battalion was in its assembly area it was covered by an intense heavy calibre artillery barrage of more than forty-five minutes duration. Almost coincident with the first burst of shells in the area came the cry of wounded. Although the Battalion Aid Station was near the wounded, Technician Fifth Grade Emerald M. Smith and Private First Class Rudolph R. Ritter, both of the Medical Detachment, left the safety of their fox holes and fearlessly ran two hundred yards through a rain of shell fragments and

¹⁰ GO No. 240, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Oct. '44. 1 Lt. Treadway was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹¹ GO No. 61, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Sept. '43. T/5 Smith and Pfc. Ritter were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

the advance guard which was followed by two files of riflemen. First Lieutenant James R. Kilburn led the file on the left edge of the road and Sergeant Richard G. Hofelich led the right file. Immediately an enemy tank and four machine guns fired straight down the road. One man was hit in the mid-section and blown to bits, as those who could, jumped for cover in buildings on either side of the road. Just as Sergeant Hofelich dashed into a building on the right side of the highway he heard some



KILLED IN ACTION

Capt. Hugh V. Carico and 1 Lt. James R. Kilburn,
both of Company "C", on 15 August 1943.

one crash to the ground behind him. Turning, he saw it was Lieutenant Kilburn who had been killed instantly by a bullet through the head. Those who escaped being killed by this sudden burst of fire were extremely fortunate. The strongly defended enemy road block supported thus by automatic weapons, tank, mortar and artillery fire exacted heavy casualties on the company.

While Company "C" became heavily engaged in the fire fight the remainder of the First Battalion executed an envelopment via the high ground to the south of the town, in an effort to relieve the situation. In spite of complete darkness caused by an eclipse of the moon the maneuver was successful and Spadafora was in complete possession of Seventh Infantry men at 0030, 16 August.

Driving on in the night the First Battalion captured Rometta Station, at 0430 and arrested its advance at that point.

SECOND BATTALION TAKES OVER THE LEAD

The Second Battalion which had trucked from Meri to Spadafora passed through the First Battalion at Rometta Station at 0600, 16 July. Shortly after leaving Rometta Station the Second Battalion encountered heavy small arms, machine gun, mortar and artillery fire from an estimated company of hostile Infantry, artillery and armored units making a determined effort to defend the junction of Highways 113 and 133 in the Bauso-Divieto area. The battalion moved to the south of Highway 113 and pushed its advance forward steadily, during the afternoon, over rough terrain and under occasionally heavy fire. It cut Highway 133 two miles west of Gesso at 1700. Cannon Company, from positions between Spadafora and Rometta Station, rendered effective fire support to the advance.

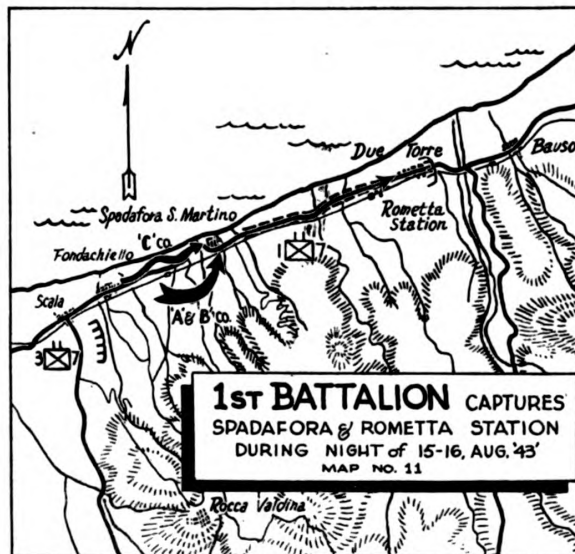
While leading his machine gun squad in action Corporal Laverne E. Wang of Company "E" was caught in

a heavy enemy artillery barrage. Rapidly, but coolly, he led his squad out of the area, only to discover that his gunner together with others had been seriously wounded. With disdain for the flying shell fragments and falling debris he voluntarily crossed two hundred yards of open terrain to retrieve the equipment of the fallen soldiers. He then led the remainder of the squad into the attack.¹³

In the course of the attack Sergeant Clarence W. Beaty of Company "G" was leading his squad in the advance. A nest of machine guns believed to be three or more in number, at a distance of about two hundred yards to his right oblique, opened fire, wounding Sergeant Beaty in the left shoulder. Although suffering from loss of blood he directed his squad to envelop the position from the right flank while he personally assaulted the position to the front, drawing the enemy fire, until his squad enveloped the emplacement. As a result of his orders and the actions of his squad the machine gun nest was destroyed. Sergeant Beaty continued to command his squad in the attack for about five minutes until he was forced to the rear because of his wound.¹³

While friendly artillery units saturated the road junction and strong points in the sector of the Second Battalion, a platoon of Company "B", 753rd Tank Battalion, pushed through Bauso to devastate enemy positions near Divieto destroyed a Mark IV tank, an 88mm and two 77mm field pieces as well as an enemy pillbox. It was this Mark IV tank which had caused considerable damage on Highway 113, including the burning of at least fourteen freight cars loaded with ammunition in the Rometta Station yards, where the bursting shells from the flaming cars impeded traffic for several hours.

The Third Battalion was moved to Rometta Station at 1430 and advanced to take over the Regimental lead. Passing through Bauso, Company "K" was detached and sent southeast to capture Serro, which was accomplished at 1730. The remainder of the Third Battalion continued on to the junction of Highways 113 and 133, then moved east on Highway 133, to pass through the Second Battalion and seize the heights overlooking Messina from the west. Following the capture of Serro, Company "K" rejoined the battalion by a cross country movement. The First Battalion followed up the Third.



¹³ GO No. 62, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 Sept. '43. Sgt. Beaty and Cpl. Wang were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

FIRST ENTRY AND CAPTURE OF MESSINA

A patrol consisting of Lieutenant Johnson and six men from Company "I" probed the highway leading into Messina. About five hundred yards from the top of a hill overlooking the city, a well defended road block was encountered. Enemy sprayed the patrol with machine gun and rifle grenade fire which wounded the leader and forced the patrol to return. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges then organized a re-inforced platoon from Company "L" under the command of Second Lieutenant Ralph J. Yates and sent it astride the highway for Messina. The platoon quickly overcame the resistance and drove into Messina at 2000, 16 July. Sporadic sniper fire and a few determined do-or-die members of Hermann Goering Division, were quickly overcome. Second Lieutenant Yates and his men received official credit for being first into Messina, as they had for the first entry into Palermo.

At 0830, 17 August, Colonel Sherman issued orders for actual capture and occupation of Messina. One hour later Companies "B", "F" and "I" and a composite company of the First Battalion, 157th Infantry, marched into the heavily bombed city. At 1000 General Patton accompanied by General Truscott entered the city under a strong motorcycle escort. Thousands of civilians returned to their homes from caves where they had hidden for protection. All were glad that the Germans were gone. By 1330 hours the troops were bivouaced in lemon groves along Garibaldi Avenue, and the Regimental Command Post was established in the Messina City Hall. British patrols entered the city from the south.

During their entry and stay in the city occupation troops were harassed by light shelling from the Italian mainland. Two thousand prisoners were rounded up in the city and in the hills west of it.



Lt. Gen. Patton looks at the road sign pointing the way to Messina, the last enemy stronghold on the Island of Sicily.

During the night the last German forces embarked from the island abandoning a large amount of undestroyed materiel, supplies and a large body of Italian troops. In the Messina area, except for small scattered groups of enemy snipers, organized resistance was at an end.

Shortly after midnight the Third Battalion was completely assembled on the ridge overlooking the city of Messina, ghostly in the moonlight. Planes were buzzing overhead and the last boats were slipping across the strait to temporary safety. Troops that entered the city encountered no resistance other than an occasional sniper. Before daylight the engineers constructed a by-pass around the last demolished bridge and artillery battalions were setting up their 105s, ready to fire into the city or across the strait to the mainland of Italy.

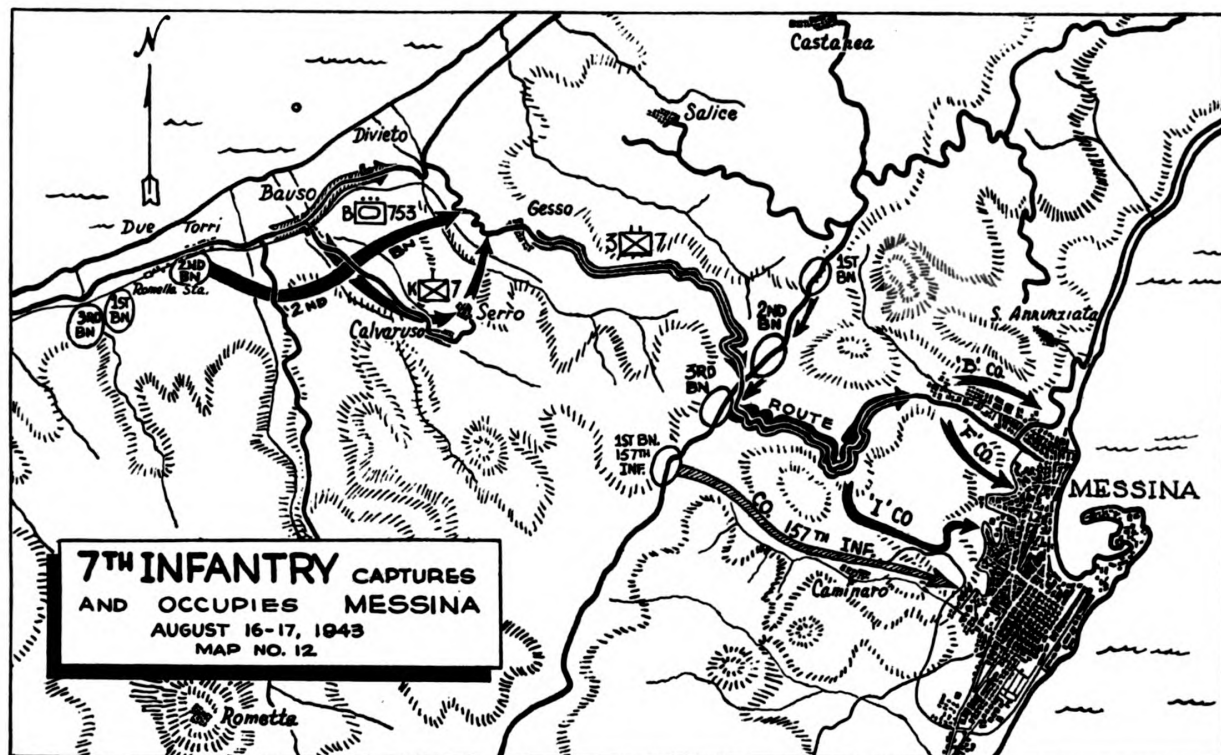
SUMMARY OF THE SICILIAN CAMPAIGN

The Sicilian Campaign was a whirlwind affair for the Allied forces. The rapid conquest of the island hastened the end of Italy in the Second World War. Italy's capitulation came shortly after the capture of Messina by the Seventh Infantry. Following the successful amphibious landings the ground forces conducted the campaign almost exclusively, as enemy air activity was almost nonexistent and practically complete air superiority was enjoyed by the Allies. With Italian forces resisting only lightly in many places the Germans on the island fought stubborn, rearguard and delaying actions, and withdrew as rapidly as possible. Infantry played the important role in the pursuit action of the campaign. Terrain and the limited road nets kept the armor playing a minor part to the "dirt Infantry". Artillery in general gave only limited

support while the Service Forces experienced much difficulty and were unable always to supply the troops adequately.

All American and British forces engaging in the campaign contributed to its successful conclusion but an out-

talion, each in less than a day's time. Those rapid advances put the Regiment in the most advantageous position to capture Palermo, or steal it rather from the tankers of the Second Armored Division, driving on the capital from the west. The capture of Palermo high-



standing role was played by the Third Infantry Division which landed in a superb manner, captured Licata and Agrigento, then crossed the island in four days and captured Palermo. After a brief rest the Division overcame stubborn resistance along the north coast road by hard fighting and two behind-the-lines landings, then ended the campaign by capturing Messina.

Each team of the Third Infantry Division played its part in the campaign and played it well, but none surpassed the work of the old and tried Seventh Infantry, which accomplished every mission assigned to it by the commanding general. For the Regiment the operations were divided into two periods. During the thirteen days of fighting and marching in the first period from 10-22 July 1943, the "Cotton Balermen" performed brilliantly. Landing on the left of the entire invasion force they encountered the most opposition but quickly overpowered the enemy. Following a reconnaissance in force toward Agrigento the "Cotton Balers" captured the city in a beautiful maneuver of all battalions. Time and again the troops demonstrated their ability to withstand excessive physical strain and conducted rapid advances, without the aid of normal vehicular support in many cases. The sixty mile move the Regiment made from the assembly area near Castronovo to Villabate in thirty-seven and a half hours, by a combined foot shuttle-motor march, using only organic transportation and displacing supporting units as required, was an accomplishment which included the foot marches of thirty-two miles by the Third Battalion and thirty miles by the First Bat-

lighted the entire campaign and brought to a close the first period of actual combat engaged in by the Regiment in Sicily. Results of the operations for the first period were the capture of twelve thousand enemy including five hundred Germans, one hundred fifty assorted field pieces, two hundred assorted vehicles, four ration dumps and eleven ammunition dumps of size warranting reports.

During the second phase, 1-17 August 1943, the Regiment once again demonstrated its superior ability as a fighting organization. On Hill Di Marco, the "Million Dollar Ridge", its roughest and costliest battle in Sicily was fought and won. The determination and aggressiveness on the part of the First Battalion in advancing at night against stubborn enemy resistance was another highlight of the campaign. All the difficulties of night fighting confronted the battalion on the night of 15-16 August 1943 when Spadafora was captured. With one company battling in a strongly defended urban area the remainder of the battalion enveloped the town from the south across stream beds and intervening ridges defended by automatic weapons and mortars. The Seventh Regimental Combat Team forced the enemy to retreat eighty miles and captured 5500 Italian and 180 German soldiers as prisoners of war. The crowning achievement of the Regiment was the capture of Messina. Materiel captured during the last phase included 249 assorted vehicles, 96 tons of ammunition, two arsenals, guns of all calibre, and numerous dumps of various kinds.

During the entire campaign the "Cotton Balers" displayed magnificent fighting spirit, coordination and

stamina. It required a superb "esprit de corps" and great physical endurance for the troops to operate so swiftly over the mountainous Sicilian country in the hottest months of the year. Only by relentlessly maintaining its powerful pressure, despite the formidable handicaps of terrain, climate and extended supply lines, did the Seventh Infantry inflict its crushing blows on the enemy. The Third Infantry Division cites the capture of Licata, Agrigento, Palermo and Messina as the highlights of its action in Sicily and is grateful to the Seventh Infantry for the taking of three of those four places.

Excellent leadership, the aggressiveness of the individual soldier, superiority of arms and equipment, superiority in numbers and capabilities of supporting weapons and branches of service, and the high degree of physical and moral fitness of the troops were the important factors contributing to the whole and very complete success of the campaign for the Seventh Infantry.

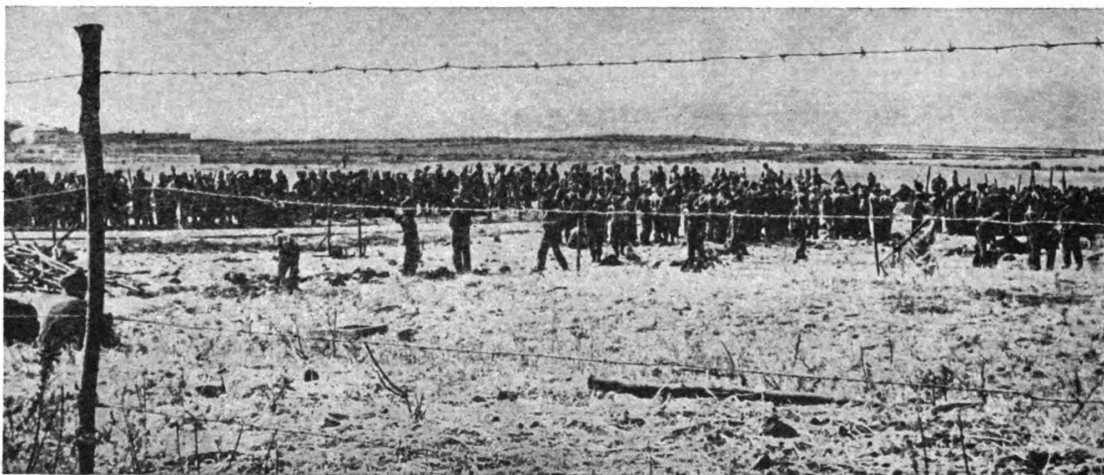
Cost of the entire campaign to the Seventh Infantry was a total of 645 battle casualties; 149 killed in action, 6 missing in action, 336 seriously wounded and 144 lightly wounded in action. Number of enemy killed and wounded is unknown but is believed to be heavy.

In a biennial report as Chief of Staff of the United States Army, General of the Army George C. Marshall,

Catania the east coast bastion which had held up the advance of the British Eighth Army, fell early in August. The Germans and Italians were already withdrawing across the Strait of Messina under heavy air bombardment and continued pressure by our ground forces. On 16 August patrols of our 3d Division entered Messina from the west simultaneously with British units from the southeast and the next day organized resistance ceased. In 39 days the Sicilian campaign had ended. Through use of a heavy concentration of antiaircraft guns the Germans managed to extricate thousands of their first-line panzer and airborne troops as well as a considerable amount of light equipment over the Strait of Messina to the mainland. Nevertheless, for the Axis the loss of Sicily was a major military disaster. Their casualties totaled 167,000 of which 37,000 were Germans. Our casualties totaled 31,158 killed, wounded, and missing.¹⁴

On 18 August, Company "B", 753rd Tank Battalion and the First Battalion, 157th Infantry were released from attachment to the Seventh Infantry and returned to their parent organizations. Both units had contributed materially to the successful operations of the Regiment against Messina.

On 19 and 20 August, the Seventh Infantry conducted patrols on the road nets and hills west of Messina, and in the city itself, and located much salvage materiel. A small number of dead were collected. Vehicles in running order or capable of towing, were assembled at collecting points in Messina and Divieto.



German and Italian prisoners of war are shown near Messina after they were captured by the 7th U. S. Infantry.

described how the fall of Italy in World War II was brought about and summed up the Sicilian Campaign. To inform the reader of the accomplishments of the first two days of the campaign by the Allies and give total casualty figures for both the Allied and Axis forces, but also to show that the entry into Messina was considered by higher headquarters to be a "simultaneous" entry by Third Infantry Division patrols and British units, the report is here quoted in part. As already stated the Seventh Infantry claims first entry into Messina.

In the first two days of the invasion more than 80,000 men, 7,000 vehicles, and 300 tanks had been landed; several small ports had been placed in operation; at least six airfields had been captured and were being prepared for use.

By 16 July the battle line ran from a point just south of Catania on the east to Porto Empedocle on the west; about one-quarter of the island was in our hands. By 22 July, General Patton's forces in a rapid thrust across the western end of the island occupied the key port of Palermo. Further east the troops forged steadily ahead through rugged mountains stubbornly defended by the enemy. By the end of July only the northeastern corner of the island remained to the enemy.

Until relieved on 19 August, the three rifle companies "B", "F" and "I" had a very enjoyable time combining their occupation duties with social activities. Enemy artillery from the mainland of Italy shelled the city methodically inflicting no casualties on the battle-wise troops however, though the medical units were kept busy patching up some of the civilians. The three rifle companies rejoined the Regiment on the hills west of Messina late in the day of 19 August.

MOVEMENT TO THE WEST

On the morning of 19 August 1943, orders were received from Third Infantry Division outlining movement of the Division from the Messina area to the Trapani area. On that day track laying vehicles of Cannon Company moved to an embarkation point in the vicinity of Falcone for movement by LCT.

¹⁴ General Marshall's Report "The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific," Simon and Schuster, 1945, p. 16.

On 20 August other elements of the Seventh Infantry moved from positions on the ridges west of Messina to a bivouac area adjacent to Highway 113 in the vicinity of Bauso and Divieto where they remained for a few days.

Movement by motor convoy, involving reinforced transportation, was initiated from an initial point in Spadafora early on the morning of 23 August. The convoy moved west on Highway 113 through Barcellona, Palermo, Partinico and Calatafimi to a new bivouac area in the vicinity of Paceco. The two hundred forty mile move was completed in the afternoon of 24 August.

TRAINING IN PACECO AREA

The Paceco bivouac area was located in olive groves a few miles inland from the port of Trapani. The rail-

eral Patton. Officers' schools were conducted three times weekly and the commanding officer of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion directed a school for forward observers. Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies held gun drill for crew served weapons while rotation instruction was given in other Infantry weapons.

While the Seventh Infantry was engaged in guarding and salvage duties in western Sicily, Italy had signed an armistice with the United Nations on 3 September 1943. The terms of unconditional surrender accepted by the Italian government were announced on 8 September by General Dwight D. Eisenhower. When news of the Italian surrender reached Third Division Headquarters the Seventh Infantry was placed on two-hour alert and then dispatched to guard several airports in the vicinity of Trapani. It was thought that major units of the Italian air force might fly in to surrender and it was desired that the airports be heavily guarded.



Messina was pounded in her final days. An Axis vessel sunk by the Allies in the aerial bombardment that preceded the capture of the city lies alongside the bomb-shattered docks.

road yards in the village of Paceco were filled with wrecked equipment and twisted rails. Elsewhere demolished buildings and bomb craters gave mute testimony to the battles fought and won by American forces.

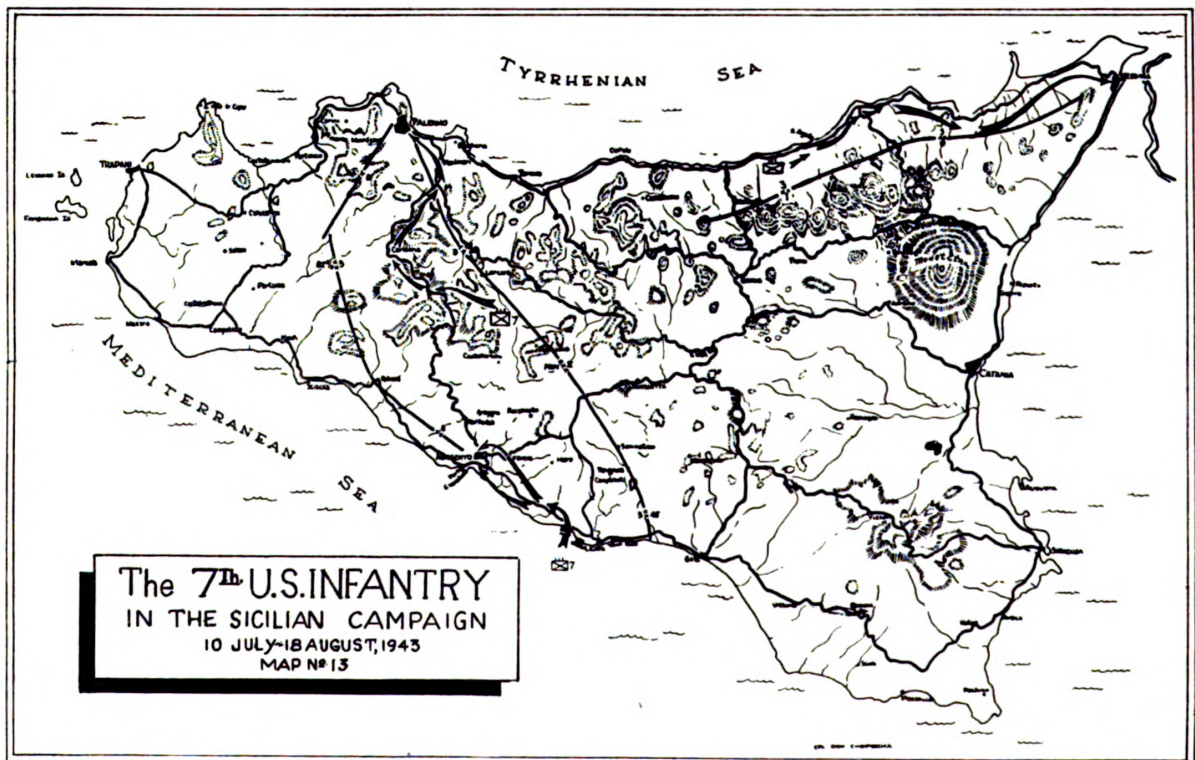
Inspections of all individual and organizational equipment were held and a program of training was initiated. Battalions conducted mounted and dismounted patrols with emphasis on gaining information, and the technique of patrolling. Communications personnel conducted command post problems. Cleanliness and sanitation were stressed in the bivouac area and measures for the control of flies were instituted to prevent the spread of disease. Church services and movies were held in the Regimental area and for the first time in Sicily passes were issued to the troops to visit neighboring towns. On the afternoon of 29 August all units made an eight-mile march at four miles per hour to the beach for swimming. The next day, in the morning, all officers and non-commissioned officers from sergeants up attended a talk given by Gen-

In the afternoon of 8 September the Regiment moved to the vicinity of Castelvetro. The First and Second Battalions established defensive lines north and west of Castelvetro and the Third Battalion guarded the Mazara airfield. Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies patrolled the roads south and east of the town. The First Battalion also conducted patrols on Highways 115 and 119 to the coast from Campobello and north on Highway 119 to San Ninfa. A Platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop was attached to the Seventh Infantry and also conducted patrols.

Patrolling activities continued with no unusual happenings until September 11 when the Regiment, less the First Battalion, returned to the Paceco bivouac area. The First Battalion remained in the vicinity of Castelvetro conducting patrols and salvage duty until relieved on 14 September. On 15 September the Seventh Infantry closed out of the Paceco bivouac area and moved to a staging area in the vicinity of Palermo.



Two Allied soldiers look over the city and harbor of Messina, Sicily, to the mainland of Italy.



PART THREE

The Campaign of Southern Italy

CHAPTER I

From Palermo Sicily to Centurano, Italy

(19 September to 12 October 1943)

Following the conquest of Sicily, American and British armies lost no time in pursuing the German forces. On 3 September 1943, the British Eighth Army crossed the Strait of Messina to the Italian mainland and drove up the Calabrian peninsula. 9 September saw new landings with the American Fifth Army invading the continent of Europe at Salerno and Paestum. On the same day the British First Airborne Division invaded at Taranto in the heel of Italy.¹

In the Salerno landing the British Tenth Corps, including three American Ranger Battalions, landed on the left, and the American Sixth Corps, with the 36th Infantry Division making the assault, landed on the right on the Paestum beaches. The river Sele was the boundary between the two Allied corps.²

The 36th Infantry Division encountered considerable German resistance and was subjected to German tank attacks shortly after the landing but succeeded in its first assignment of the war by taking initial objectives. The 45th Infantry Division followed up the 36th and on the second and third days the beach-head was expanded against stiff opposition. The 82nd Airborne Division and the British 7th Armoured Division also took up positions.

German reinforcements gathered in the mountains to the east of the beach-head and during the period 12-14 September launched savage counter-attacks. Attempting to drive the American Fifth Army into the sea before the British Eighth Army could come up from the south, the Germans attacked fiercely. The situation was critical for the Allies and people on the home fronts of Britain and America watched the proceedings with great anxiety. The Sixth American Corps was on the defensive.³

On 13 September 1943, the Third Infantry Division received word from 15th Army Group that it was to be moved to the Salerno beach-head as soon as possible. General Truscott took a small staff to Salerno and preparations were begun for movement of the "Rock of the Marne" Division to the battle areas once more. The 30th Infantry was the first Third Division regiment to sail from Palermo for Italy. The Seventh Infantry departed from Palermo harbor by nine LCIs and three LSTs, at 1400, 19 September, and landed without incident around noontime the next day. The LSTs unloaded in the vicinity of the Sele River and the LCIs debarked personnel opposite Battipaglia where, at 2100, the Regiment was assembled.

By the time the Third Infantry Division arrived in Italy the Salerno beach-head was secure and contact had been established with the British Eighth Army by patrols. However it was planned for the Third Division to be committed immediately and to drive inland to the east and north. As the enemy withdrew to his mountain defenses the 30th Infantry led the Division advance, engaging only in minor skirmishes until Acerno was reached where an attack was launched at 0800, 22 September.

The Seventh Infantry moved to a forward assembly area in the vicinity of Martino during the night of 21-22 September 1943. The Third Battalion moved forward and occupied the high ground north of Montecorvino and sent a platoon to the blown-out bridge west of the town. Patrols from the Third Battalion contacted the 30th Infantry on the east and patrols from the Second and Third Battalions contacted the British force on the west.

FIRST BATTALION IS COMMITTED

22 September 1943

On 22 September 1943 the First Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour was committed on the left of the 30th Infantry, then engaged at Acerno, and the Seventh Infantry was actively entered in the Naples-Foggia Campaign. One mounted cavalry platoon and one pack platoon were attached to the Regiment and in turn attached to the First Battalion. At 1655 Captain Baker commanding the Provisional Remount Troop reported to the Command Post and told Colonel Sherman that the forty mule pack train would be ready in approximately one hour.

The First Battalion moved north by over-land route on foot, at 1815, and was followed by the Remount Pack Train. At 1250, 23 September, the First Battalion had not made contact with the enemy and was advancing over difficult terrain. The mules were unable to take all the battalion's ammunition and part of the loads had to be dumped on the hills. At 1850 the battalion seized its objective and assisted the 30th Infantry in the capture of the village Le Croci Di Acerno. During the night of

¹ "Salerno, American Operations From the Beaches to the Volturno," Military Intelligence Division, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 26 Aug. 1944, pp. 1-2.

² *Ibid.*, pp 7-8.

³ *Ibid.*, pp 17-74.

1st BATTALION IS COMMITTED AND ASSISTS IN CAPTURE OF LE CROCI DI ACERNO 22-23 SEPTEMBER 1945 MAP NO. 14

La Bottezza

Le Croci di Acerno

ACERNO

Montecorvino

S. Filippo

S. Martino

Santo Pardo

Muragl

Marcorano

Rovello

Avola

At 0230, 24 September 1943 the Third Battalion advanced along the unimproved road leading north from Acerno and was followed by the Second Battalion. The Third Battalion passed through the 30th Infantry at 0600 and resumed the Division advance on the Acerno-Montella axis. Small arms fire was received from the left flank as the battalion advanced. Seven bridges were found blown which delayed the advance. Artillery began to fall on the battalion. The unimproved road followed the Calore River north in a deep valley between high mountains, which were occupied by numerous enemy snipers and delaying forces. Company "I" left the road to the right and advanced toward Mount Sovero as a platoon of Company "K" under First Lieutenant Donald G. Taggart advanced on the left of the road up the deep valley and the remainder of the company followed. At 1815 Company "I" had cleared Mt. Sovero but Company "K" was held up by three enemy machine gun nests and a motorized machine gun in the mountain to the left of the valley.

pany "E". First Sergeant John L. Butcher of Third Battalion Headquarters Company, Staff Sergeant John Thomas, Technician Fourth Grade Glen E. Converse and Technician Fifth Grade Anthony C. Pontarelli, all of the Medical Detachment, performed distinguished and gallant service during the bombardment by rendering assistance to the wounded personnel, and helping in the work of reorganization.⁴

The next day the battalions conducted aggressive patrols as the Second Battalion received shelling from long range enemy artillery. Fontana and Piazza were penetrated and the Third Battalion reported five different bridges blown in its area. A Third Battalion patrol captured a castle in its zone after a sharp engagement and secured an enemy motorcycle, armored car and jeep in good condition. The Third Battalion Observation Post was set up in the castle. Company "K" drove an enemy platoon off the mountain on the left of the valley.

The First Battalion, 30th Infantry, was attached to the Regiment during the day and given the mission of protecting the right and rear of the Regiment. At 1745 the battalions were ordered to send out reinforced platoons to seize objectives and patrol to the north. The First Battalion was ordered to send out three such forces to seize Hills 1257, 1123, and 1213. The Second Battalion temporarily commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore F. Bogart, was ordered to capture Hill 606. The Third Battalion was directed to seize Cassano. Two mounted platoons were attached to the Second Battalion for patrolling purposes.

The First Battalion reached Hill 375 and found the bodies of several dead Americans, members of an ill-fated reconnaissance platoon which had been ambushed. A patrol from the Third Battalion entered Piazza and was later shelled by the enemy. A Company "K" patrol contacted Company "A" and met no enemy.

On 26 September the Seventh Infantry supported by Division Artillery continued its vigorous patrolling activities. The three battalions each sent a patrol into Piazza. One First Battalion patrol contacted six American paratroopers between San Leucia and Avellino and encountered one German patrol. One patrol went to the high ground east of Volturara and the Third Platoon of Company "C", which went to Hill 1213, engaged a platoon of Germans in a fight with small arms, machine guns and mortars which lasted all day.

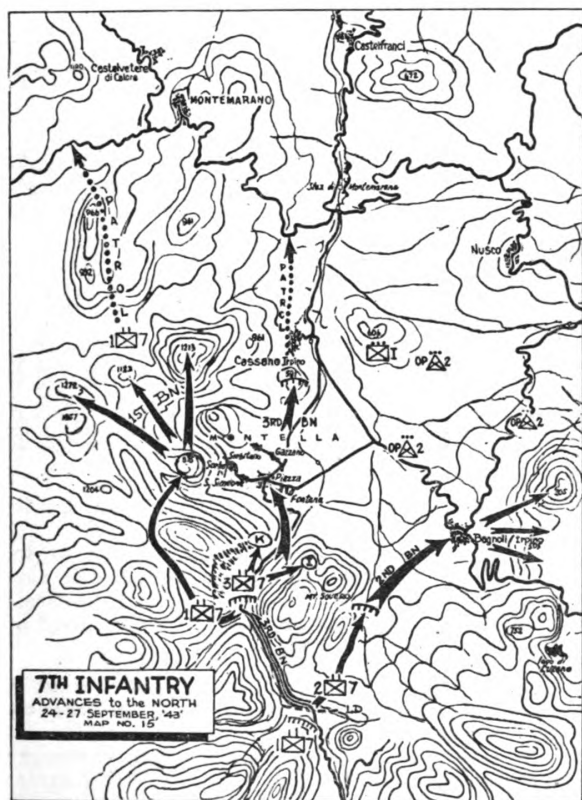
⁴ GO No. 8, HQ, U. S. 5th Army, 17 Jan. '44 and GOs No. 85, 88, 102 and 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 and 23 Nov. and 17 Dec. '43 and 8 Aug. '44. Col. Sherman was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. 1 Sgt. Butcher, S/Sgt. Thomas, Sgt. Michak, T/4 Conerse and T/5 Pontarelli were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

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First Class Conway crawled thirty-five yards through machine gun and rifle fire that was directed on him from an enemy position about two hundred yards distant. He made two round trips during the next two hours, and then later, of his own volition, took a very important message through, but on the return trip was listed as missing in action. His heroic deeds added immeasurably to the success of the company's mission.⁶

During the afternoon the First Battalion sent out three route reconnaissance patrols, one to the west along grid line fifty to Hill 1407 and beyond, two others to the north where they branched off with one going to the right and the other to the left of Mt. Costa. Second Battalion patrols reported Bagnoli clear at 0700; went three and a half miles beyond Nusco and occupied Hill 606. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon penetrated to Nusco and returned by midnight.

The Third and Second Battalions were ordered to move and the Third commenced advancing to the north at 1503, passing through the villages of Montella, and occupied Hill 591, near Cassano Irpino at 2140. No resistance was encountered along the way. The Second Battalion started moving at 1630 to concealed positions east of Bagnoli. At 2205 the battalion was in Bagnoli



and received intermittent artillery fire. Strong outposts were established on Hills 505, 601 and 752. During the night the Third Battalion was ordered to send, at daylight, a reinforced platoon to Hill 1213 to assist the First Battalion platoon engaged in the fight there. The First Battalion, 30th Infantry, was detached from Seventh Infantry control during the day.

During the night of 26-27 September a heavy rain preceded by an electrical storm of astounding intensity washed out many of the mountain bridges that had been hastily constructed by engineer battalions. The supply

of water ceased to be a problem for from that time on rain fell almost continuously, day and night, causing much misery among the lightly clad foot troops, many of whom had discarded their packs during the hot dry period.

Early on 27 September the First Battalion reported Hill 1213 taken as the Third Battalion reinforced platoon approached against no opposition. Vigorous patrolling continued, as on preceding days, toward Montemarano and along the routes to Volturara. The First Battalion patrols encountered light enemy resistance. Late in the afternoon the battalions began wheeling to the northwest. The First Battalion was ordered to move to Hill 1272 and patrol to Volturara and Montemarano while the Third Battalion was to move to Hill 1213. The Second Battalion was to leave Company "F" in Bagnoli and one platoon at the river crossing, and then move to the old Third Battalion positions near Cassano. The Third and Second Battalions began executing their movements at 1800 and closed into their new positions at about 2400. The First Battalion jumped off at 2055, and closed on to its objective at 0400.

At 2110, 27 September, the Division Commander, General Truscott, called the Regimental Command Post and ordered Colonel Sherman to prepare to move the First Battalion on Volturara, the Third Battalion to Mount La Foresta and the Second Battalion to follow in the center. The next morning General Truscott visited the Command Post. Receiving the report that the battalions were ready he set the time of H-hour at 1200. The 10th, 39th and 9th Field Artillery Battalions took up positions and registered during the morning, and supported the advance of the battalions, which started at the arranged time.

The advance on 28 and 29 September was over the most rugged mountains yet encountered. Scattered pockets of resistance were located and eliminated. A number of enemy soldiers who had secured civilian clothes attempted to infiltrate the forward lines with the many refugees moving south through the mountains. Mines and booby traps caused casualties, whose cases were aggravated by the difficulty of evacuation.

The weather and difficult terrain combined to delay the advance of the Third Battalion but at 1500 that unit approached Mount La Foresta. At 1540 new orders from Division directed the First Battalion to continue on after capturing Volturara and seize San Stefano, and for the Third Battalion to proceed to Hill 922 north of Highway 7. The First Battalion encountered mines outside of Volturara and captured the town at 1725 only after a determined fight in which foot troops were supported by a pack howitzer company of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, whose 75mm weapons aided in knocking out strong points. Many civilians were injured when it became necessary to shell the church in which they had taken cover. The enemy was using the steeple for an observation post. Forward elements of the First Battalion drove on for San Stefano.

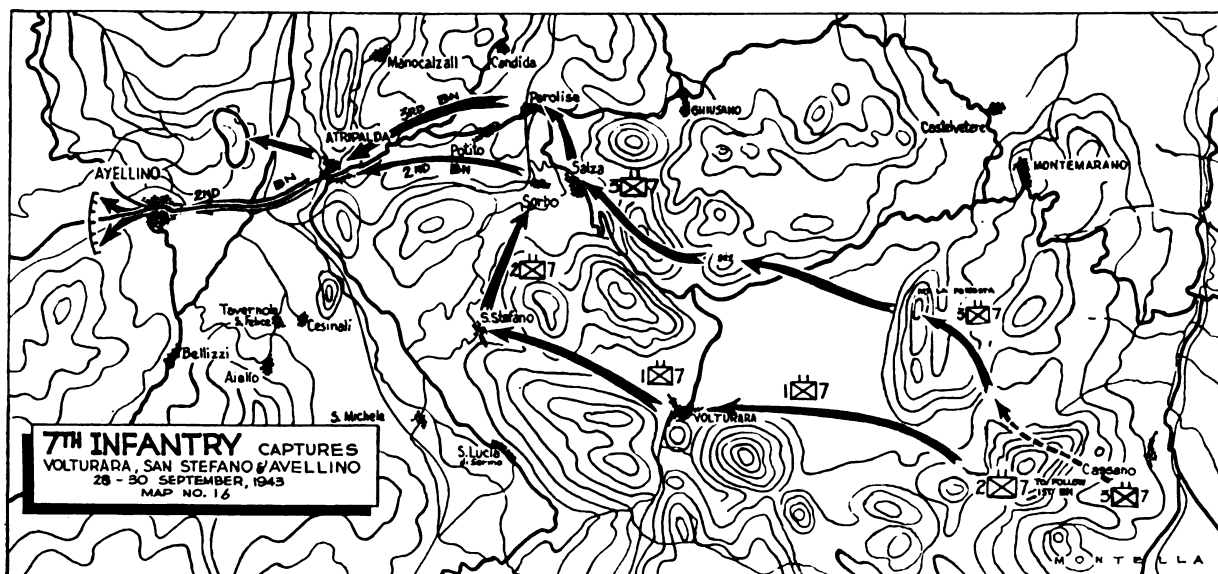
The Second Battalion after hard going over the rough terrain was one and a half miles outside of Volturara at 2330. Patrols were sent into town to contact the First Battalion. Company "F" moved up to join the battalion. Forward elements of the First Battalion entered San Stefano at 0130, 29 September, and reported the town clear. At 0700 some of the battalion was located on slopes east of the town but the bulk of the battalion was scattered from Volturara to San Stefano. The men were wet and cold and had not eaten for twenty-four

⁶ GO No. 111, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 Dec. '43. Pfc. Conway was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion also experienced a most difficult time with the terrain but succeeded in crossing Highway 7, seized Hill 922 and advanced to the west toward Salza. In addition to the difficult terrain the Blue Battalion⁷ en-

THIRD BATTALION PROTECTS DIVISION RIGHT FLANK TO MONTESARCHIO

On 1 October 1943 the battalions were engaged only in patrolling action and the Regimental Command Post moved to Atripaldi. The First Battalion sent a patrol to Montefredani and found the town occupied by fifty to seventy-five Germans. The Second Battalion patrolled Highway 7 to the west and found booby traps along the way. Reports were received of an estimated German squad withdrawing to the west, killing all animals as it went. A White Battalion patrol moved to Ospedalelto without enemy contact. Blue Battalion patrols reported



The Second Battalion which had trailed the First Battalion to San Stefano passed through the Red Battalion and moved north, seizing Sorbo, then moved west along the left of Highway 7. On 30 September the Second Battalion on the left of Highway 7 and the Third Battalion on the right advanced toward Avellino. Potito was overrun and at 0415 the battalions were closing in on Atripaldi. At 0800 the Third Battalion was ordered to swing north and seize the high ground north of Avellino. At 0900 the Blue Battalion left Atripaldi and the White Battalion, followed by the First, pushed down Highway 7 and into Avellino, the Third Division objective, at 1021 against no opposition. The Germans had withdrawn in the night. The First Battalion then sent a reinforced platoon north to seize Candida and a patrol to Manocalzati. Another patrol went south and contacted

The 30th Infantry continued the advance to the northwest through the Campanian Apennines at daylight 2 October, a comparatively easy task as the enemy was falling back rapidly to the natural barrier offered by the Volturno River.

The Third Battalion was recommitted 2 October to protect the Division's right and advance between the 34th Infantry Division on the right and the 30th Infantry on the left. The battalion advanced through Grottolella and toward Altavilla. As the 30th Infantry shelled the Blue Battalion's original objective the troops held up on Monte Toro. Messages were sent to the 30th Infantry reminding them of the Third Battalion's plans and directing them to cease firing on the objective. Early 3 October the Third Battalion occupied Altavilla then

* The First Battalion was called the "Red" Battalion, the Second Battalion the "White" Battalion and the Third Battalion the "Blue" Battalion. Later in the history the 7th Infantry companies are also referred to sometimes by their code names, i. e., Company "A" as "Able" Company, Company "B" as "Baker" Company, Company "C" as "Charlie" Company, etc.

Late in the day of 4 October the Third Battalion moved into Montesarchio and relieved the 30th Infantry. The next day the remainder of the Regiment moved by reinforced transportation from Atripaldi to the vicinity of Montesarchio where at 1500 the dispersed truck column was bombed and strafed by a group of enemy planes which caused several casualties and destroyed two trucks. During the night of 5-6 October the Regiment moved to a concealed assembly area in the vicinity of Centurano just east of Caserta. Tents were again pitched with the Regiment greatly dispersed and each man digging-in for individual protection. Kitchen and baggage trains joined the Regiment. Though it still rained steadily the soldiers now had their pup tents and blankets. Clean uniforms, field jackets and raincoats made the wet weather more tolerable. New men joined the companies to replace those lost in action up from Montecorvino.

3RD BATTALION PROTECTS
DIVISION RIGHT FLANK FROM
AVELLINO TO MONTE SARCHIO
2 - 4 OCTOBER, 1943
MAP NO. 17

The Crossing of the Volturno

its way through difficult terrain. The main advance had been made by the 3rd Infantry Division, which had advanced along the axis Cancellò-Maddaloni and was in the mountains above Caserta."¹⁰

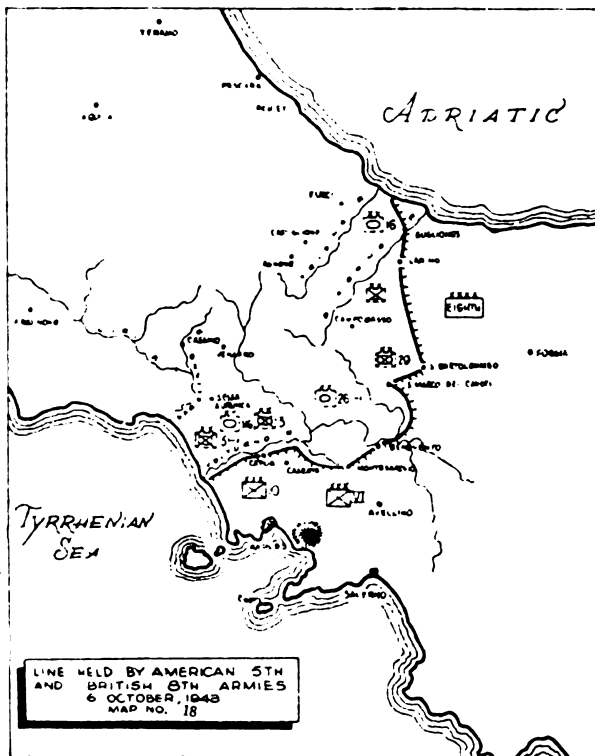
Following the successful establishment of the Salerno beach-head by the American Fifth Army, troops of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's German Tenth Army consisting of the 3rd and 15th Panzer Grenadier Divisions, the Herman Goering Division and elements of the 26th Panzer Division had fought delaying actions in terrain and weather which gave them many advantages though they were outnumbered by the Allies.

⁸ "From the Volturmo to the Winter Line", Military Intelligence Div., U. S. War Dept., Wash., D. C., 11 Dec. '44, pp. 1-2.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp 2-5.

¹⁰ "Road to Rome", HQ, U. S. 5th Army, p 11.

On 7 October Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark issued his orders for the attack on the Volturno. The American VI Corps, with three of the finest battle tested Divisions in the United States Army, the 3rd, 34th and 45th Infantry Divisions, was instructed to force a crossing of the river on the night of 9-10 October 1943 in the vicinity of the Triflisco Gap and drive along the ridge line running northwest from Triflisco, in the direction of Teano. The British 10th Corps was to attack the next night. Major General John P. Lucas of the VI Corps planned to assault with the 3rd and 34th Infantry Divisions.



On the afternoon of 8 October 1943 Major General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., commanding the Third Infantry Division, held a meeting of his regimental commanders and outlined his plan of attack for the division forces. He selected the Seventh Infantry to make the main effort for the division and to be accompanied in the attack by the 15th Infantry. Careful studies of the obstacles presented by the river and the enemy, and of the terrain, were made by the commander. His appreciation of the situation and his plans for the attack have been described in a study prepared by the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department as follows:

The critical terrain feature in the Third Division zone was the ridge line running northwest from Triflisco. The ridge is actually an extension of Mount Tifata broken by the narrow gap formed by the Volturno River in forcing its way through the mountains to the coastal plain. The gap is so narrow that troops of the First Battalion, 15th Infantry, dug-in on the northern slopes of Mount Tifata, were exchanging small-arms fire with enemy troops hidden in the stone quarries and olive orchards on the north side of the gap. As long as the enemy held the ridge line, he would be in position to dominate the valley lying to the east and to command the best site for a bridge in the Third Division zone. Highway 87, running northwest from Caserta along the east and north sides of Mount Tifata, crosses the river within the Triflisco Gap and then cuts east across the valley toward Caiazzo. The natural site for the

engineers to build a bridge for heavy vehicles was somewhere within the gap where the road parallels the river on both sides.

Of almost equal importance with the Triflisco ridge was the hill mass to the east, Mount Majulo and Mount Caruso. It overlooks the Volturno Valley stretching two miles south of the river and dominates the narrow valley leading northwest along the Third Division's axis of advance. Just north of the river on the Division's right flank are two smaller hills, Mount Monticello and Mount Mesarinolo. Rising from the level valley like solitary outposts, they serve to guard the approach to the Mount Caruso hill mass. Air photographs indicated that these two hills, as well as the nose of the ridge at Triflisco, were strongly defended by the enemy. Almost surrounded by the hills, the fertile valley of the lower Volturno, through which the river follows its winding course, presents a peaceful scene of cultivated fields and pink or blue farmhouses. It is a beautiful valley, but for the soldier trying to work his way forward under the fire of enemy machine guns and mortars there was only an occasional stone wall, sunken road, or stream bed to offer protection. A rapid advance into the hills overlooking the valley was therefore essential to the success of the Third Division attack.

Aware that the enemy would be well prepared for any attack made across the Triflisco Gap, General Truscott planned to fake an attack on the left flank while making his main effort across the valley in the center. To effect this deception, the First Battalion, 15th Infantry, and the heavy weapons companies of the 30th Infantry were to concentrate all their available fire power on the enemy defenses across the gap. The demonstration was to start at midnight, two hours before the main assault, and continue for the remainder of the night. If the enemy showed any sign of withdrawing, the Second Battalion, 30th Infantry, was to cross the river, but, until such time as the enemy could be cleared from the ridge line, it was to be kept blanketed with smoke. While the enemy was being diverted by the demonstration on the left, the big push was to be made in the center by the Seventh Infantry, under the command of Colonel Harry B. Sherman, crossing the river at 0200 and attacking through the valley with Mount Majulo as its first objective. Company "A" of the 751st Tank Battalion and Company "C", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to cross the river at daylight to support the Seventh Infantry attack. Sufficient materials were available to waterproof the tanks and tank destroyers of these two companies, and it was expected that they would be able to ford the river. On the division right flank, the 15th Infantry (less the First Battalion), under the temporary command of Brigadier General William W. Eagles, was to attack north from Mount Castellone. Its first objectives were the German strongpoints on Mount Monticello and Mount Mesarinolo. Once these hills were taken, the Regiment was to capture the high ground above the village of Piana di Caiazzo, secure the division right flank, and move west behind the Seventh Infantry.

The key to the strategy of the Third Division attack was surprise. Only the 15th Infantry had units along the front chosen for the division attack. The Seventh Infantry had been kept in its concealed bivouac area east of Caserta, and the 30th Infantry had been in contact with the enemy only in the area now assigned to the 34th Division. The strength of the artillery, which was to fire a massed concentration for an hour before the Infantry jumped off, was also unknown to the enemy. Instructions were issued on 9 October that the artillery was to fire each morning for an hour but that not more than half of the guns were to be used. Every effort was being made to keep the enemy from knowing where the blow would fall and the amount of punch behind the blow. Once the attack was started, however, there was to be no pause. As General Truscott expressed it to his officers, "This is undoubtedly going to be our first real battle—we must have the men imbued with the idea that they have to get to their objective and they won't stop."¹¹

The 30th Infantry Regiment, 34th Infantry Division which had been in VI Corps reserve, and the British 10th Corps needed more time than what was allotted them to effect reliefs and shift troops for the attack. Difficulties of rain, mud and poor roads slowed the work considerably. Therefore General Clark postponed the attack to the night of 12-13 October.

The Seventh Infantry took advantage of the delay and continued reconnaissance of the river and terrain. Air photos were valuable in making the studies but invaluable information was secured by the reconnaissance

¹¹ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", pp 13-16.

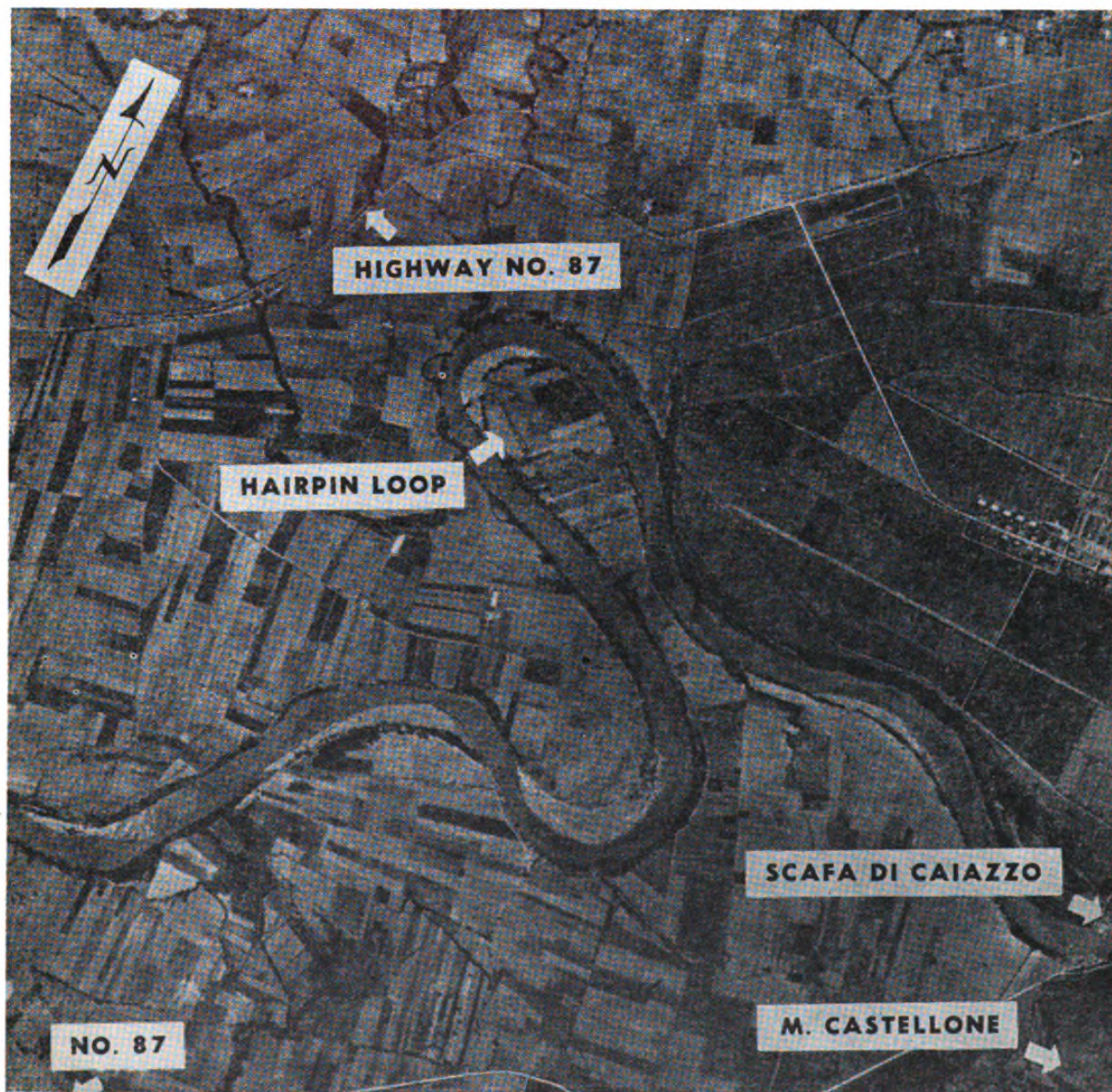
patrols which operated nightly. Each night the Regimental Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon and reconnaissance groups from each of the battalions reconnoitered for possible routes and crossing sites. Not all patrols were successful. The night of 8-9 October both First and Second Battalion patrols were fired on by enemy machine guns and mortars. The Second Battalion patrol succeeded in crossing the river and returning. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon and the battalions established observation posts. The First Battalion O-P was fired on by enemy artillery on the 10th and two men were killed and two more wounded.

Patrols were unsuccessful in their attempts to cross the river the night of the 10th and 11th. Blue Battalion patrols attempted at three different places and failed each time, encountering enemy machine gun fire and one large enemy patrol, which had crossed to our side of the river. The enemy patrol fired machine pistols and flares at the Third Battalion patrol. A Second Battalion patrol

reached the river but did not cross when enemy fired on it with pistols and grenades. Red Battalion patrols encountered no enemy that night but failed to cross. American artillery caused one casualty among our troops.

The following night both Red and White Battalion patrols completed crossing missions assigned to them, finding the current swift, water chest deep, and steep firm banks with brush on the far side. A patrol from the Second Battalion which went out that night may be described as typical of the many others which probed the river for crossing points.

After reaching the river a short distance up stream from the hairpin-shaped loop in the center of the Division zone, the men waded out into the dark, swirling stream. Although the water was not over chest deep, the current was very swift, and the men found it impossible to get rope across. The bank on the south side was sloping. The bank on the north side was ten feet high, straight up, and lined with bushes and trees. Moving downstream to the bend in the river just below the hairpin loop, the patrol again waded out into the river. Before the



The Hairpin Loop, Volturno River, Italy.

men were across, enemy troops on the far bank opened fire. One man fell. The patrol succeeded in getting back to the south bank, and a fire fight ensued between our machine guns and enemy machine guns and mortars located on both sides of the hairpin loop. Nevertheless, the bend in the river appeared to be a good place to cross since vehicle tracks leading to the water suggested that the enemy had once operated a ferry or a raft there. Although two possible crossing points had been tested, the patrol moved farther down the stream and made yet a third effort to cross. The patrol report states simply that "one man was across when fired on point-blank. He did not return but crossing by wading is possible." Seven members of the patrol were casualties, including three missing in action.

The men who patrolled were the real heroes of the Volturno crossings: men who waded alone across a flood-swollen river two hundred feet wide, never knowing when they might sink over their heads in the icy water or when the crack of an enemy rifle would spell sudden death; men who had to lie helpless and shivering on a muddy bank and watch a comrade be shot as he struggled with the current and who could then themselves move downstream and wade out into the river. It was grim work, but for every man who lost his life searching for crossing points and probing the enemy defenses the lives of hundreds of other men were saved when whole battalions had to fight their way across the river.¹²

Private First Class Russell E. Brannon and Private Olegario L. Valenzuela of Company "E" had to swim the Volturno to search for a suitable crossing site. The two soldiers made two crossings and on the second crossing were challenged and fired upon. Private Valenzuela escaped and returned but Private First Class Brannon was either killed or captured.¹³

Back in the bivouac area the battalions were busy assembling their equipment and making final plans as supporting engineers also gathered boats and bridging material. Company "C", 84th Chemical Battalion, Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, and Company "C", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were attached to the Regiment to support the operations and also made preparations.

The night of 12-13 October 1943 found the Seventh Infantry ready to make the main assault for the Third Division once more. Colonel Sherman had a trio of veterans to command the rifle battalions. Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour, Major Everett W. Duvall and Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges commanded the Red, White and Blue or First, Second and Third Battalions respectively. In the assault across the Volturno and in the drive to the heights of Mignano each was to display outstanding leadership.

On the north side of the Volturno German troops of Field Marshal Kesselring were waiting for the impending battle. While the Seventh Infantry had reconnoitered and made ready, and other troops in the Fifth Army had swung into position the enemy had worked hard at laying mines, digging gun pits, and organizing systems of machine gun emplacements to cover the river banks with interlocking bands of fire. Enemy artillery was ready to go into action. The enemy knew an attack was impending. It was no secret but the enemy did not know the exact time or in what places the attack would come. The Fifth Army had numerical superiority but the German Tenth Army had defensive advantages behind a swollen raging river.

The postponement of the attack had enabled the Fifth Army to plan a coordinated assault by the American VI and the British 10th Corps, each with three divisions (see Map No. 19). While the 3d and 34th Infantry Divisions were to attack across the Volturno the 45th Infantry Division on the right flank was to attack enemy defenses down the Calore River Valley toward the Volturno. In the British 10th Corps zone the assault was to be made with one brigade (equivalent to a U. S. Regiment) of the 56th (London) Division attacking on the Corps right flank at Capua, one brigade of the Seventh Armoured Division in the center at Grazzanise,

and two brigades of the 46th Division on the left at Cancellò. An amphibious tank landing with tanks loaded on LCTs was to be made north of the river mouth.¹⁴

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE VOLTURNO BREAKTHROUGH AT THE HAIRPIN LOOP

Like many big Infantry operations, the assault across the Volturno was initiated at night. At 0200 on 13 October the riflemen started out to wrest the west bank of the river from the enemy's control. Many there were who were not destined to see the light of the next day. The Military Intelligence Division study described the Seventh Infantry crossing as follows:

On the evening of 12 October 1943 as darkness settled over the Volturno a full moon rose, lighting up the sharp peak of Mount Tifata and spreading an eerie glow over the open fields in the valley. At midnight the uneasy silence which had settled over the Volturno Valley on the Third Division sector changed suddenly to an inferno of fire and noise. All along the northern slope of Mount Tifata within the Trifisco Gap, rifles and machine guns spouted lead at German positions across the river, and exploding mortar shells covered the slope with puffs of smoke. With the assistance of all the heavy weapons companies of the 30th Infantry, the First Battalion, 15th Infantry, dug in just south of Highway 87, was "demonstrating vigorously" on the Third Division left flank. An hour later, at 0100, the Third Division artillery opened fire against the north bank of the river. The targets were enemy machine gun and mortar positions which had been spotted during the days of preparation. For an hour shells plowed up the dirt and crashed into farmhouses all along the division front. Then, at 0155, smoke shells were mixed with the high explosives to screen the crossing areas. Five minutes later the Infantry began the attack against the German river line.

The Seventh Infantry which was spearheading the Third Division attack crossed the river at the hairpin loop: the First Battalion crossing just down stream from the loop, the Second and Third Battalions crossing upstream from the loop. At midnight, when the diversion on the left commenced, the First and Third Battalions were occupying a forward assembly area concealed in a deep gully on the eastern slope of Mount Tifata. The Second Battalion and the Regimental Command Post were on the east side of Mount San Leucio hidden along a dirt trail which the 10th Engineer Battalion had improved to get the tanks and tank destroyers down into the valley.

The First Battalion started pulling out of their assembly areas at 0045, the men carrying their guide ropes, rubber pontoons, and improvised rafts. Off in the distance, looming out of the misty, smoke-wreathed valley, was the rocky mass of Mount Majulo (Hill 502), their objective. Slogging across the muddy, plowed fields, they reached the river bank. While carrying parties struggled to get the boats and heavy rafts down the slippery bank to the water's edge, assault parties waded and swam the bitter-cold, rushing stream to anchor guide ropes on the far bank. Tracer bullets from enemy machine guns formed a criss-cross pattern of red flashes over the heads of the men as they worked feverishly to shuttle boats and rafts across.

Crossing by boats on a narrow front, the First Battalion encountered many difficulties. Many of the trees used for anchoring the guide ropes pulled out. The improvised rafts broke up, one by one, in the swift current; and the engineer party from the First Battalion, 39th Engineers, had trouble in keeping the rubber boats from drifting downstream. Fortunately for this operation, the enemy bank was higher than the south bank, and in the darkness and smoke the enemy machine gunners fired too high to hit the men as they crossed the open fields to the river. Dawn was breaking before all the men had crossed. With the morning light the accuracy of enemy fire improved. Shells began landing all along the river line, and the last boat to pull away from the south bank was the target for a direct hit.

As fast as the men crossed the river, they gathered along a sandbar under the cover of the north bank and then moved upstream in column, clinging to the river bank for protection against the enemy machine guns. One man was killed by a

¹² *Ibid.*, pp 17-18.

¹³ GO No. 83, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Nov. '43. Pfc. Brannon (missing in action) and Pvt. Valenzuela were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁴ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", p. 25.

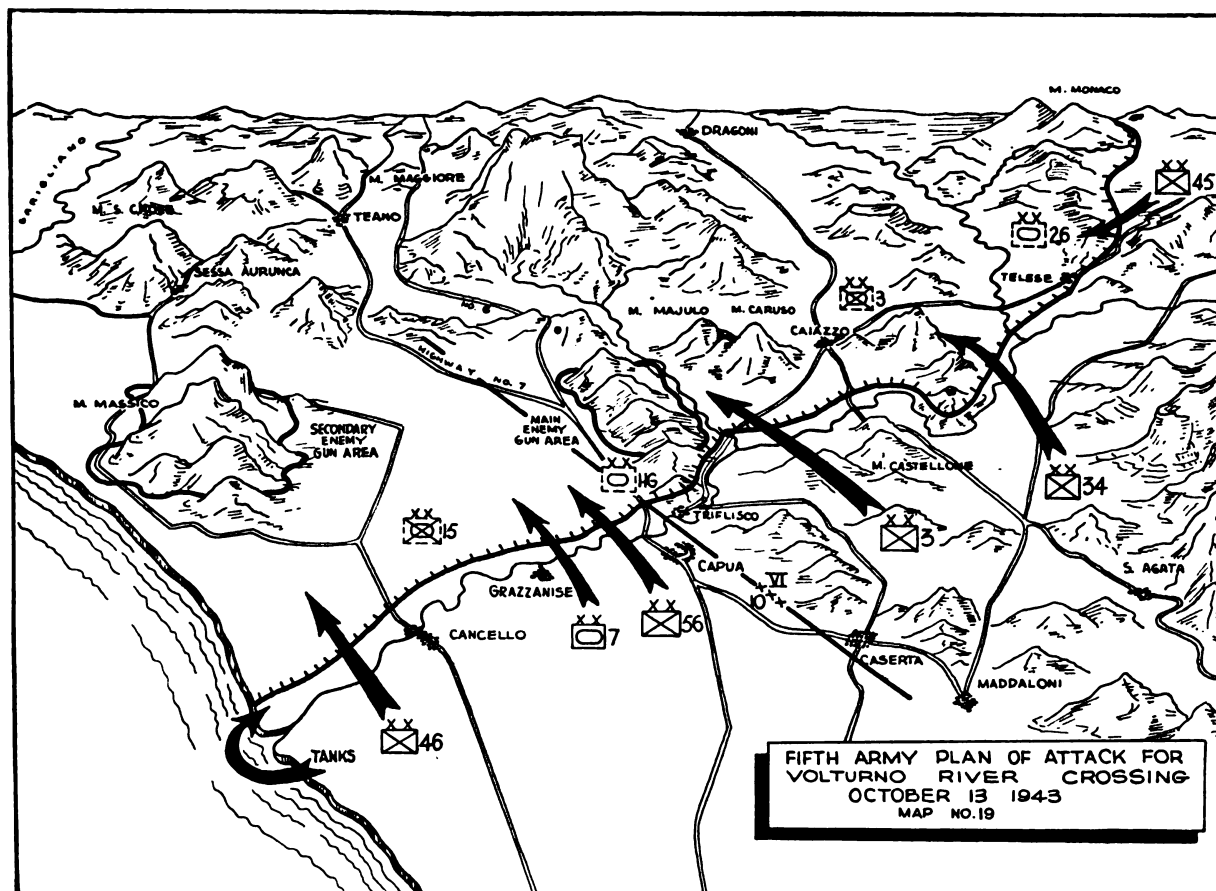
mine. Several other men stepped on mines which threw up small geysers of sand and mud without doing any damage. The artillery fire was more serious. Shells splashing into the river hit a number of men as they worked their way along the bank to the point where a small stream enters the river on the west side of the loop. Here they left the river and deployed across the field south of Highway 87.

While the First Battalion was crossing on the west side of loop, the Second Battalion, followed by the Third Battalion, crossed on the east side of the loop. The men waded the river holding their rifles over their heads with one hand and clinging tightly to the guide ropes with the other to keep from being swept off their feet by the current. Scrambling up the muddy bank, they went after the enemy machine gunners. In the darkness and confusion of the crossing it was not easy to locate every machine gun nest. Enemy snipers were still firing along the river until late in the morning. Without waiting to mop up these pockets of resistance, the Second and Third Battalions pushed on across the valley toward Mount Majulo, following the general line of the stream which flows south to enter the river at the north end of the loop. By 0800 the forward elements of the Second Battalion had almost reached the mountain, and the Third Battalion, under heavy artillery fire, was working slowly across the fields behind it.¹⁵

Just after crossing the river Staff Sergeant Raymond L. Oliver of Company "C" led his eight-man squad four hundred yards along the river towards an enemy machine gun that was temporarily stopping the company's advance with withering fire. When an enemy threw a hand grenade that wounded two men, Staff Sergeant Oliver charged and killed him with fire from his

cluding an officer. Elimination of this obstacle enabled the company to advance.¹⁶

At about 0230 hours on 13 October 1943 Sergeant Bennie L. Guffey of Company "C", while leading his squad in the assault on the enemy side of the Volturno River, stepped on a mine in the dark and from the resulting explosion suffered four wounds. He refused to go to the rear for medical aid and continued to lead his squad. As the attack progressed his platoon leader, Second Lieutenant Jack M. Tatum, was killed by enemy machine gun fire and Sergeant Guffey immediately braved this murderous fire, which was coupled with withering mortar fire, to assure himself that each man of the platoon had suitable cover. Sergeant Guffey, suffering greatly from his wounds, continued the attack until he was again wounded, this time severely, by enemy shellfire. Still refusing to be evacuated he rallied the remainder of his squad who were not wounded, yelling, "Come on men, we've still got a machine gun to knock out up there." His men followed but Sergeant Guffey's wounds would not allow him to go further. By then our own artillery prevented further progress, but a gallant attempt at continuance was made by Sergeant Guffey before he fell exhausted from his many wounds and finally was evacuated. For his extraordinary heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁷



carbine. He then led the squad to within fifty yards of the enemy gun, and directed his men in a twenty minute soldier suddenly arose from a concealed position and fire-fight which knocked out the gun, wounding two of the enemy, and enabled the capture of three others in-

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp 26-31.

¹⁶ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug. '44. S/Sgt. Oliver was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ For authority see GO 48 Hqrs. Fifth Army 24 March 1944. Sgt. Guffey officially was transferred from the 7th Infantry on 18 Oct. 1943.

Second Lieutenant Murlan F. Smith of Anti-Tank Company led a group of fifty men to assist the First Battalion in crossing the Volturno river. Corporal William C. Foley, who was killed by enemy machine gun fire. Private First Class Francis C. Sereno and Second Lieutenant Smith performed gallantly while under enemy fire to stretch ropes across the river, secure broken cables and rafts, transport heavy weapons and other equipment across the Volturno, directing isolated groups to cover and rendering assistance to wounded riflemen.¹⁸

At 0500 Major John A. Elterich of Headquarters Second Battalion plunged into the Volturno in an effort to find a suitable exit for the Heavy Weapons and Headquarters Companies of the Second Battalion. The companies burdened with their heavy equipment were unable to leave the stream at the point used by the rifle troops because of the steep, vine-tangled banks, and were being subjected to enemy machine gun fire as they jammed together in the water. Despite the close range machine gun fire which wounded twenty of the men and struck the water all around him, Major Elterich led the men to a more accessible path up the bank.¹⁹

After crossing the river the platoon of Company "H" to which Private First Class Eugene T. Muskey belonged was caught in an artillery concentration and was also being fired on by enemy tanks. A member of the

ing his men until the position had been taken, the enemy gunner killed and the weapon destroyed.²¹

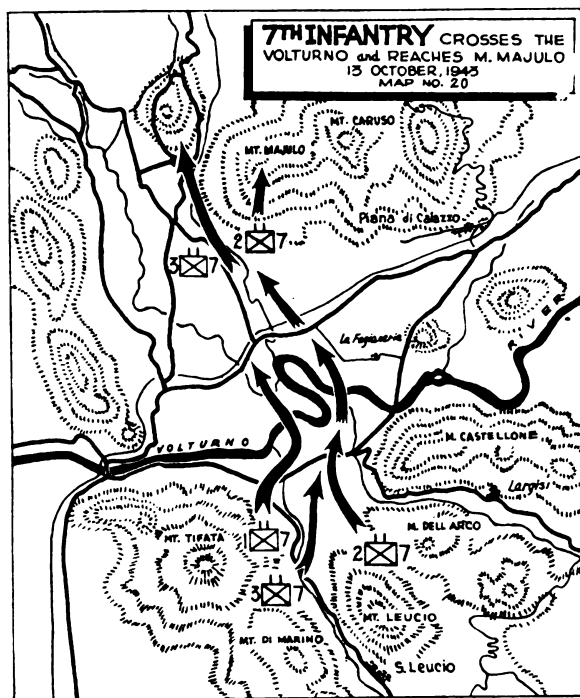
While leading another flank patrol, Sergeant Arne J. Holst's squad, also of Company "K", came under heavy flanking fire from an enemy machine gun position. Sergeant Holst directed his squad into firing positions, and though wounded as a result of the action, personally directed the fire of grenadiers sent to his support, refusing medical attention until the enemy position had been overcome.²²

Just after Company "K" had crossed the river the squad leader of Private John R. Archabal's squad fell wounded and enemy fire disorganized the remainder of the squad. Realizing the situation Private Archabal, although only a few days in combat, assumed command, reorganized the squad and continued the attack on the enemy position. He inspired the men by his courage and initiative under fire. In subsequent action he was killed.²²

About fifty members of Company "I" were attacked by eight enemy tanks shortly after the river was crossed and eleven men were wounded by the attack. Private First Class Lenny A. Macklin crossed seventy-five yards of open terrain which was being swept by the tank fire to render aid to the wounded. Under the heavy fire he personally administered aid to many men and helped evacuate five of the more seriously wounded.²³

Captain Glenn E. Rathbun left the security of his observation post and went to the aid of the trapped group. Running and crawling four hundred yards across the open and flat field Captain Rathbun made his way through the aimed tank and machine gun fire to reach the isolated group. Crawling from one man to the next he directed each to where the battalion was reorganizing. During his search for the troops Captain Rathbun was directly fired at by a tank only fifty yards away and two machine guns one hundred fifty yards distant.²³

Daylight improved the accuracy of the enemy machine gun, rifle, mortar and artillery fire but it "also enabled Third Division observers to call for artillery fire on enemy guns and tanks in the valley. Tank destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, firing from dug-in positions in the valley below Mount San Leucio, added the deadly fire of their high velocity shells. Bull dozers sought to break down the river banks so that tanks of the 751st Tank Battalion could cross to support the Infantrymen but heavy enemy fire from 150mm guns, or heavier, and machine guns drove the bull dozers back from the river. At 0730 a radio message was received at the Regimental Command Post from the 751st Tank Battalion which said that thirty-three enemy tanks were forming by some houses at the base of one of the hills. First Battalion skirmish lines moved north toward the railroad. When they were severely shelled by enemy artillery and tanks, the advance slowed as the enemy counter-attacked with Infantry. Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour moved forward with the artillery falling all around him and drew machine gun fire upon himself. Though he was directly fired on by enemy rifle-



platoon was severely hit and dazed, and although losing large amounts of blood from his wound, got up and was running around, exposing himself to more artillery and tank fire. Private First Class Muskey left his place of cover and ran approximately forty yards through an enemy artillery impact area, caught the injured soldier who had by this time lost consciousness, bandaged his wounds and carried him to a place of safety.²⁰

While enemy machine gun fire inflicted casualties on his platoon and threatened the remaining elements crossing the Volturno, Sergeant Stanley R. Dombrowski of Company "K" led his squad into the enemy lines and delivered a bold assault on the flank of the enemy positions. Though wounded severely by an enemy rifle grenade, he continued the attack, hurling grenades and direct-

¹⁸ GOs No. 84 and 131, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Nov. '43 and 27 June '44. Cpl. Foley (posthumously), 1 Lt. Smith and Pfc. Sereno were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁹ GO No. 91, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 May '44. Maj. Elterich was awarded an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

²⁰ GO No. 106, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 21 Dec. '43. Pfc. Muskey was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²¹ GO No. 84, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Nov. '43. Sgt. Dombrowski was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²² GO No. 84, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Nov. '43. Pvt. Archabal (posthumously), Sgt. Holst and Pfc. Macklin were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

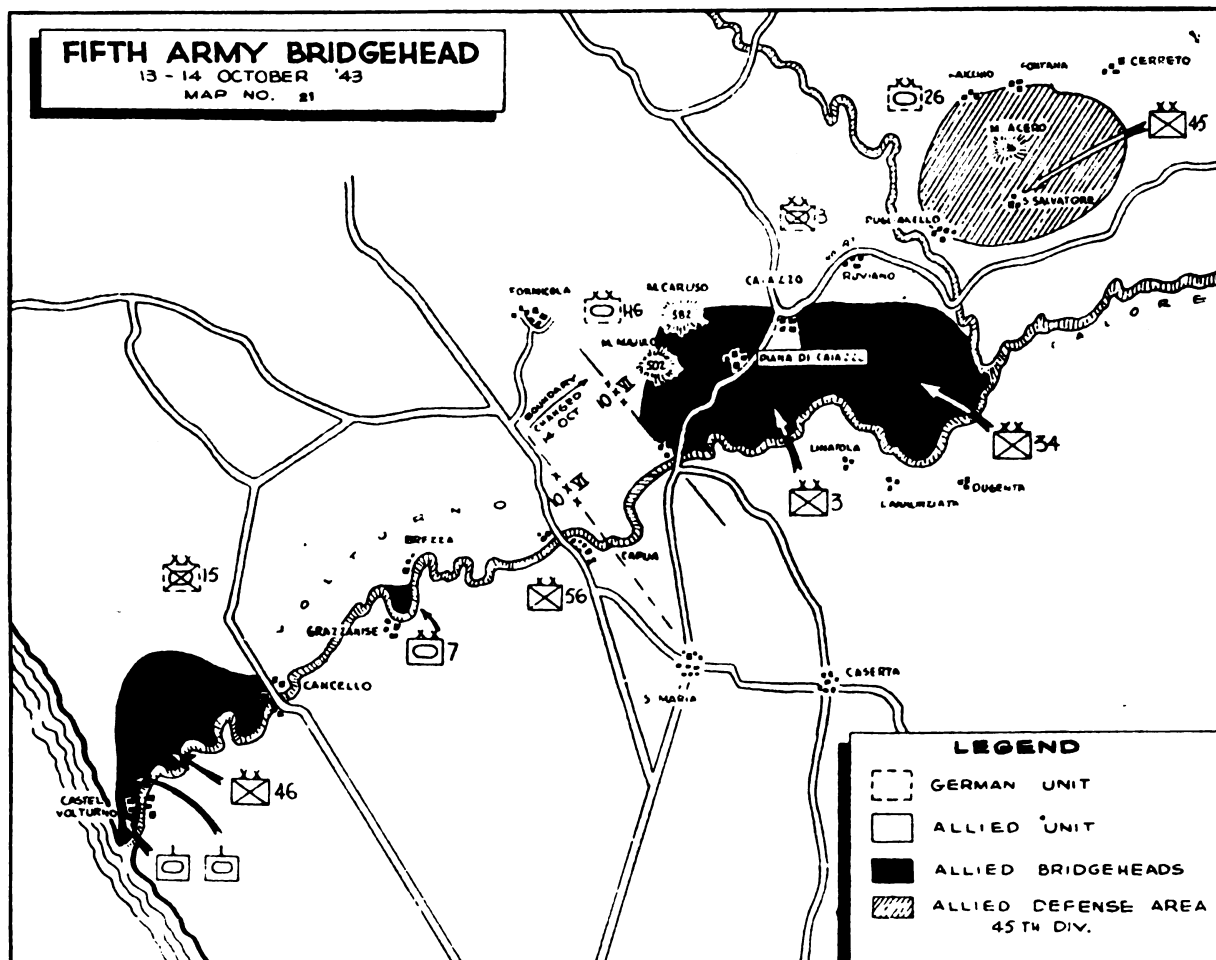
²³ GO No. 108, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 June '44. Capt. Rathbun was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

men and automatic weapons, he continued to expose himself to command better the situation and skillfully to maneuver flanking fire on the enemy, breaking up their counter-attack and inflicting heavy damage. His actions were an inspiration to all men and his exceptional command made possible a successful assault.²⁴

Private First Class Ernest Snead of Company "C" noted a wounded man lying exposed to the enemy fire sweeping the valley. Of his own volition he made his way from a position of cover to the side of the wounded soldier, in full view of the enemy, and dug a slit trench for the man's protection until he could be reached by aid men.²⁴

had been halted and broken up, before this however, by the gallant Infantrymen, artillery and tank destroyer fire. Cannon Company was credited with having knocked out two enemy tanks and the artillery three, as well as some machine gun nests.

As Major Everett W. Duvall's troops of the Second Battalion occupied Mount Majulo the Third Battalion of Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges was in serious trouble throughout the afternoon. At 1620 the tanks and tank destroyers had not reached the battalion and the following message was sent to the Regimental Command Post: "Our tanks and TDs no earthly use to me. Do not know their location. M-4s open up on Battalion



Orders were sent to the First Battalion by radio to reorganize and hold its ground to protect the Regiment's left flank until the tanks and tank destroyers could cross the river and render direct support. At this time the Blue Battalion received fire from eight enemy tanks and numerous enemy machine guns and requested tank destroyers.

Men of "Company A", 10th Engineer Battalion, worked heroically. Using picks and shovels they tore down the river bank, at a site below the goose neck, sufficiently enough to allow the tanks to move to the water's edge without tipping over and to cross the river. At 1240 fifteen tanks and three tank destroyers of the supporting companies were across the river and moved to the support of the rifle battalions. The counter-attacks

whenever movement begins. Our own artillery, Cannon or tank fire falling in our area 235860."²⁵

The enemy launched several counter-attacks against the positions which had been captured by Company "K".

Private First Class Arthur J. Hulsey of Company "K" was on an outpost while his unit was being reorganized. He observed and intercepted an enemy counter-attack. After sending back a man with word to the unit, he opened fire with his Browning Automatic Rifle causing

²⁴ GOs No. 106 and 95, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 21 Dec. '43 and 13 Dec. '44. Lt. Col. Izenour and Pfc. Snead were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁵ Unit Journal, 7th Infantry HQ, 13 Oct. '43.

many enemy casualties. Although the machine pistol, grenade, mortar and artillery fire was of such intensity that it drove back several adjacent outposts, Private First Class Hulsey refused to withdraw, thereby allowing his unit time to move in and repel the enemy attack.²⁶

From a forward observation post which was under enemy machine pistol fire, First Lieutenant Frank Petruzel, commanding Company "K", directed his mortar section's advance. He led his men in a skillful employment of rifles, machine guns, mortars and grenades. By personal example under an enemy artillery and mortar barrage, his under-strength company was greatly encouraged to successfully repel the attacks.²⁶

Sergeant Garlin M. Connor, also of Company "K", left a covered position to direct fire and place men in a gap in the line. These men, at the time, were separated from their own platoon and were under the heaviest fire from the enemy who were attempting to infiltrate through our lines. Even though a communication sergeant, Sergeant Connor on his own initiative took control of the situation, giving orders and making successful placements of men in the weakened lines and giving invaluable first aid to many of our wounded, who were unable to be evacuated at the moment.²⁶

An enemy tank opened fire on Company "L" killing four men and seriously wounding five others. Private First Class Leonard H. Wood, of the Medical Detachment, left his position to brave the enemy fire and render first aid to the wounded, remaining with them until they were safely evacuated. His quick action and disregard for personal safety was directly responsible for saving the lives of at least two of the wounded.²⁶

The fire of the enemy platoon wounded Corporal Harold J. Besonday's section leader, knocked out his machine gun and inflicted casualties within his squad. Corporal Besonday moved into a forward position and returned fire with his rifle, killing five of the enemy and causing the remainder to withdraw. He then took command of Company "K" section, disposed his men on the left flank of the enemy, and directed fire until the entire enemy attack was repulsed.²⁶

While Second Lieutenant Ben W. Neville of Company "K" was disposing his weapons platoon on the flank of the company, heavy enemy rifle and machine pistol fire knocked out a machine gun squad and inflicted several casualties, among them the section sergeant. Second Lieutenant Neville without a moment's hesitation, dashed twenty-five yards across an open field in full view of the enemy to drag the wounded sergeant into the cover of a nearby shell hole while enemy machine gun bullets were striking three to five feet from him. He then directed a heavy covering fire of rifles and machine guns while he dragged the helpless soldier back across the open field. In subsequent action Second Lieutenant Neville was wounded and later died.²⁷

Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, Regimental Executive Officer, accompanied by Second Lieutenant John D. Foulk, went forward from the Command Post during daylight to reconnoiter. He used a route within the field of fire of two enemy machine guns that were already crossfiring at a party forward about two hundred yards. When he was two hundred yards further towards the river, the same machine gun fire was aimed directly at him but he continued to go forward, until he located the exact position of the two guns and brought a 75mm gun to bear on the enemy positions, knocked out the guns and made possible safer crossings for the Regiment.²⁸ In early evening the Regimental Command Post displaced forward.

Company "L", commanded by First Lieutenant Donald G. Taggart, maneuvered during the night toward the Blue Battalion's objectives but encountered enemy

machine gun and tank fire and made no headway. Lieutenant Taggart was wounded during the action. Throughout the night of 13-14 October the enemy tanks, machine guns and artillery continued to hammer at the Blue Battalion forces.

ACTION ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

On the right of the Seventh Infantry two battalions of the 15th Infantry successfully crossed the Volturno



Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, Commanding General U. S. 5th Army, congratulated the "Cotton Balers" after their successful crossing of the Volturno River in Italy.

against strong opposition, captured Mount Monticello, Mount Mesarinolo and Piana di Caiazzo, and drove on for Mount Caruso. On the right of the 15th Infantry

²⁶ GOs No. 84 and 85, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 and 15 Nov. '43. 1 Lt. Petruzel, Sgt. Connor, Cpl. Besonday, Pfc. Hulsey and Pfc. Wood were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁷ GO No. 113, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Dec. '43. 2 Lt. Neville was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁸ GO No. 111, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 Dec. '43. Lt. Col. Moore was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

two regiments of the 34th Infantry Division had pressed forward and won a bridgehead across the river.

On the immediate left of the Regiment the situation was not so good. The British 56th Division had failed to effect a crossing of the Volturno at Capua and suffered heavy casualties. Thus the area west of the Trifisco ridge was not cleared that day and the Seventh Infantry received the full shock of enemy pressure to the Third Division's left flank. The Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry attempted in early afternoon to cross at the Trifisco Gap and succeeded in getting two platoons of one company across. A hail of machine gun fire was encountered and the platoons withdrew across the river. A second attempt, following artillery and mortar preparations, failed, when the 30th Infantry troops reached the river only to be pinned down by the deadly enemy fire which inflicted severe casualties. At the mouth of the Volturno the attack of the British 46th Division was a great success. Two squadrons of Sherman Tanks completed their amphibious landing just north of the river mouth and assault battalions successfully crossed the river. In the center the 7th Armored Division met determined opposition and had to make three attempts before securing a small foothold on the north bank.²⁹

Though the enemy continued to harass troops of the Seventh Infantry throughout the night, no more attempts were made to drive back the "Cotton Balermen" who had driven forward so swiftly and relentlessly, giving the enemy no opportunity to reorganize his shattered defenses. Recognising the superb work of the Regiment,

Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark called Colonel Sherman by phone, and through him, commended and congratulated each member of the Regiment. "The cold water-soaked men on the brush-covered slopes of Mount Majulo deserved to be congratulated. In one day's fighting they had crossed the Volturno and had won the commanding height, Mount Majulo (Hill 502) in the center of the Third Division front."³⁰

Severe losses were suffered by the Regiment on 13 October 1943. Forty-one members were killed and ninety-six wounded in action. Five were taken prisoners by the enemy and three had become missing in action.

While the battalions had battled forward to their objectives Company "A" of the 10th Engineer Battalion constructed a jeep bridge across the river, at the bend just below the hairpin loop. Harassed initially by enemy machine gun fire, and artillery throughout the day, the engineers completed the bridge at 2000 hours. Other engineers completed an 8-ton bridge in the 15th Infantry sector at 0100, 14 October, and during the night combat vehicles of the Regiment and Company "C", 84th Chemical Battalion, crossed by the two bridges.

During the night the 30th Infantry troops and the remaining battalion of the 15th Infantry crossed the river. The 30th Infantry occupied the nose of Trifisco Ridge as the enemy withdrew from the knoll under the cover of darkness. The sweeping advance of the Seventh Infantry had laid the enemy left flank open and he did not wish to remain in that dangerous position the following day.

CHAPTER III

From the Volturno to Mount La Difensa

Early on 14 October Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion moved north, followed by tank destroyers, to assist the Third Battalion, but failed to reach the battalion before it jumped off in the attack at 0930 for Mount Fallano, Objective 6. The Second Battalion moved to the north slopes of Mount Majulo and the Red Battalion moved up along the Pisciareello stream.

Encountering small arms, machine gun and some mortar fire the Third Battalion overcame enemy resistance and at 1130 was on its objective. The officer commanding the tanks evidently misunderstood his orders as at 1030 he called the Regimental Command Post for a clarification and was told the armor was to move north and clear out enemy tanks in the valley. The Second Battalion moved over to Objective 6.

Early in the afternoon the Regiment stood ready to attack to the west and capture Pontelatone as patrols were sent toward the town to determine the enemy situation.

At 1530 Division Headquarters ordered the Regiment to advance on a new axis, along the road to Liberi, the initial objective, and then to Dragoni, the final objective. Colonel Sherman chose to attack in a column of battalions with the Third, Second and First in order, with hopes of capturing Liberi by dark.

In mid-afternoon tanks of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, reached the Blue Battalion. Enemy tank concentrations were reported in Liberi and enemy troops were in Cisterna.

Moving out on schedule, at 1645, the Third Battalion immediately encountered enemy resistance in the form of machine gun, small arms and anti-tank fire.

Corporal Warren B. Williams, of Company "I", which was leading the Third Battalion advance, moved

his squad under enemy machine gun and anti-tank fire up to within fifty yards of the enemy, killing five and wounding two of the Germans. This brave and well directed action cleared the way for the company to move safely into position and helped assure a successful assault.³¹

Overcoming the resistance along the way, heavier resistance was encountered in the little stone village of Cisterna on the forward slopes of Mount Fallano and the battalion was detained in an all-night fight. Tanks and tank destroyers of the supporting units supported the attack initially and reached Cisterna, where one tank was knocked out by enemy artillery fire. The armor was forced to withdraw.

Company "I" moved to the north nose of the hill on the left and Company "L" was moving to the right of the town with intentions of by-passing the enemy. Two batteries of artillery were firing on the Blue Battalion troops. The efforts to flank Cisterna were unsuccessful and at 0540, 15 October, the Third Battalion was still held up near Cisterna by intense artillery and machine gun fire.

Private First Class Clement F. Merrill was a member of a forty-man group attempting to penetrate into the town. He advanced ahead of the group over open terrain that was swept by the intense enemy machine gun fire and he opened fire on the enemy positions. Private First Class Merrill knocked out one of the enemy guns but

²⁹ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", pp 52-54.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p 32.

³¹ GO No. 83, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Nov. '43. Cpl. Williams was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

was badly hit himself. On the following day he became missing in action.³²

The Second Battalion moving up behind the Third was also shelled by the enemy and at midnight by-passed the Third on the left. Advance over the rugged stony terrain was slow during the night. At about 0430 Company "G", the advance guard of the White Battalion, suddenly encountered stiff resistance from an enemy strongpoint consisting of three Mark IV tanks, supported by entrenched machine guns, near Mount Mizzola, and was cut off by the by-passed machine guns.

Sergeant Mike Hess of Company "G" quickly realized the situation, left his place of cover and crawled two hundred yards through the withering machine gun fire to aid the advance men. He located an enemy machine gun nest and braving its fire from an exposed position, knocked it out with hand grenades but he was mortally wounded during his act of heroism.³³

First Sergeant Buren V. Reynolds of Company "G" braved the enemy fire and moved forward to take control of the situation. Dispatching one platoon to the left flank, First Sergeant Reynolds personally took command of a squad and attacked two enemy machine gun nests from the right. His aggressive action in the heavy automatic fire at only fifty yards range, promptly knocked out the two enemy machine guns, killed two Germans, wounded three and caused the capture of eight others.³⁴

Staff Sergeant Forrest W. Goercke of Headquarters Company Second Battalion was unable to fire from his position and moved about fifteen yards to an exposed firing position suitable for his rocket gun. Although wounded in the shoulder he stood his ground in the face of enemy fire and launched three rockets at an enemy tank, disabling it. The crew and supporting Infantrymen immediately fled when the tank was crippled.³⁵

Closing in on the other enemy tanks and machine guns with bazookas and grenades, the White Battalion forces compelled the enemy armor to withdraw and knocked out more enemy weapons. Private First Class James L. Hale scored a direct hit on an enemy machine gun with a rifle grenade. He and Norman E. Raymond of Company "H" contributed largely to the rout of the enemy.³⁶

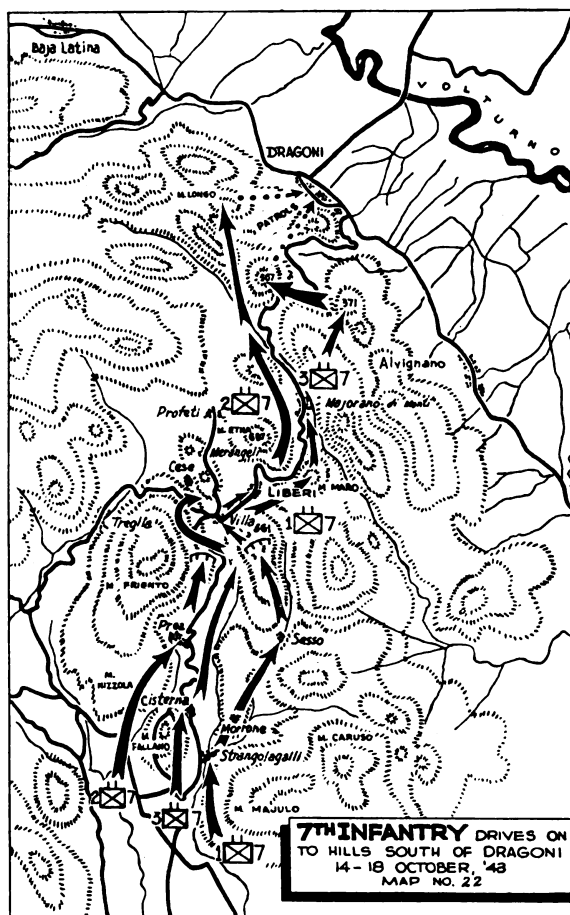
The Second Battalion pursued the enemy and knocked out two heavy personnel carriers. Prea was seized and the spearhead troops of the battalion moved rapidly up the road toward Liberi against small arms, machine gun and artillery fire, striving to catch up with the main enemy body. Corporal Richard H. Dana, of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, received credit for knocking out one of the enemy personnel carriers, with his rocket gun, and assisted in destroying the other. Immediately an enemy tank supported by riflemen swung into position and opened fire on the "Cotton Baler" non-commissioned officer and his men. Corporal Dana crawled forward for twenty-five yards under direct small arms fire to within ten yards of the enemy tank. With the use of rifle and hand grenades he killed one and wounded several of the enemy. The remaining enemy riflemen sought cover in the tank. The rocket gun squad brought its fire to bear on the tank and caused it to withdraw.³⁷

At 0930, 15 October, the First Battalion left its reserve positions and attacked north, by-passing the Third Battalion on the right, seized Strangolagalla and directed artillery on Sasso, where enemy tanks were reported rendezvousing. Meanwhile the enemy continued to shell the Blue Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, though slightly wounded by a shell fragment, continued to command and asked that artillery smoke be placed on Cisterna. The enemy finally withdrew and yielded the town to the Third Battalion, which then reverted to Regimental reserve.

Pushing on during the afternoon the First Battalion

seized Morrone and Sasso, while on the left the Second Battalion advanced to a point about one thousand yards south of Villa and on the east slopes of Mount Friento. During the evening the First Battalion attacked Hill 561 and in turn received a small sized counter-attack which was repulsed, but the Red Battalion troops continued to receive enemy small arms and mortar fire throughout the night. Reconnaissance patrols made little headway during the night.

The Second Battalion advanced during the night of 15-16 October against enemy machine gun and mortar fire to a point southwest of Villa, overrunning an enemy six inch gun and a 20mm anti-aircraft gun, before being ordered to rest the advance. On one occasion First Lieu-



tenant Malcolm F. Phillips of Company "F" crossed an area exposed to concentrated enemy artillery, tank and mortar fire to direct the fire of his 60mm mortar section. The enemy had moved machine guns to within

³² GO No. 84, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Nov. '43. Pfc. Merrill was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³³ GO No. 13, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Jan. '44. Sgt. Hess was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ GO No. 51, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 April '44. 1 Sgt. Reynolds was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁵ GO No. 50, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 April '44. S/Sgt. Goercke was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁶ GO No. 102, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Dec. '43. Pfc. Hale and Pvt. Raymond were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁷ GO No. 111, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 Dec. '43. Cpl. Dana was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

twenty-five yards of his position and several of his men were killed and wounded as a result. Staff Sergeant Robert B. Vogel singlehandedly set up one of the 60mm mortars. Although the mortar was hit by enemy machine gun fire as he set it up and bullets whizzed all around him as he fired, Staff Sergeant Vogel continued to operate his mortar until an enemy machine gun was knocked out, eight enemy killed and others caused to flee.³⁸

Private First Class Nevin R. Ulmer and Private Onofrio Mistretta, both of Company "H", performed gallantly during the action. Private First Class Ulmer left a position of comparative safety to advance through the mortar and machine gun fire to rescue his wounded squad leader. The two soldiers and others braved the enemy fire to salvage a machine gun and ammunition which had been left by casualties. While the group moved forward it came under artillery fire and all members became casualties, except Private Mistretta who continued on through the heavy concentration for seventy-five yards and retrieved the weapon and ammunition which was immediately put into effective use against the enemy. Private First Class Ulmer died of wounds incurred in the action.³⁹

The Second Battalion had suffered heavy casualties, which included sixteen of its members killed, and was ordered to hold up, dig-in and direct artillery fire to its front. The battalion was sorely in need of rations and ammunition.

The Third Battalion also made a night advance from Cisterna that night and at 0345 attacked toward Hill 524, the knob of which rises out of the tableland just north of Villa. Temporarily stopped twice by enemy artillery and mortar fire the battalion was on its objective at 0700 encountering enemy resistance, as American artillery fire also fell on the troops. The enemy then counter-attacked.

During the enemy counter-attack Second Lieutenant Joseph F. Rosplock of Company "K" rallied his men while under enemy machine pistol, grenade and mortar fire, and moved them forward, in some cases individually, to more advantageous firing positions. His ceaseless visits to his men insured the organization of the company's left flank. On countless occasions he personally joined the fire fight with an M-1 rifle. By these acts he inspired the confidence necessary to sustain his platoon's combat efficiency, and was materially responsible for the success of his unit against the heavy enemy assault.⁴⁰

Private Louis M. Scheppard of Company "M" though seriously wounded by shrapnel in the back, head and legs from enemy mortars and grenades, secured a rifle and crawled approximately fifteen yards to a firing position to defend the exposed and vulnerable company flank which the enemy counter-attacked.⁴⁰

The First Battalion attacked Hill 561 and again was counter-attacked at 0835 following an intense enemy artillery and mortar barrage. Second Lieutenant William J. Melgard of Company "C", moved forward for approximately two hundred yards to establish a forward observation post. Regardless of the fact that the best position was one utterly exposed and without protection, Second Lieutenant Melgard chose that position from which to direct his 60mm mortar section's fire. Although artillery shells were breaking within fifteen yards of him he remained exposed and brought such effective fire to bear on the enemy, it was a major factor in the repelling of the enemy counter-attack.⁴⁰

Company "C", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, were released from attachment to the Seventh Infantry because of the impossibility of maneuvering over the rough terrain. The work of the battalions during the night advances against enemy opposition was worthy of commendation and

General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., called the Regimental Command Post and praised them for their outstanding achievements.

At 1045 and 1120 the First Battalion repulsed two more strong enemy counter-attacks on its positions with heavy losses to both sides. The terrain favored enemy defenses as higher ground provided better positions for enemy automatic weapons and better observation for artillery firing. The crest of Hill 561 changed hands several times during the day.

COMPANY "D" STOPS FIERCE ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACK ON HILL 561

The second enemy counter-attack of great fierceness and determination overran the rifle companies of the First Battalion and was finally stopped by the heavy weapons squads of Company "D". The commanding officer of that company was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action that day and eight enlisted men of his command were awarded Silver Star Medals for their gallant actions performed on Hill 561.

Company "D", commanded by Captain William P. Athas, was attacked on that day by a superior force of enemy infantrymen supported by artillery fire. Although his depleted company was outnumbered three to one, Captain Athas immediately organized a defensive position to stem the attack. Having no riflemen to support him, he organized the ammunition bearers and company staff into a mobile rifle team, and after making a reconnaissance under heavy enemy fire, he led his riflemen into action. Disregarding enemy artillery shells falling within thirty yards of him and small arms fire directed at him, he moved among his men, checking their fields of fire and shifting them to positions from which to deliver more effective fire. When an automatic rifleman was wounded, Captain Athas took the weapon, joined in the fight and killed at least three Germans. Finding that only two of his machine guns were still in operation, he shifted these remaining weapons to fill gaps in his line. Four times he braved the fierce enemy artillery and small arms fire to reconnoiter for positions, and each time he led the displacement to these new positions, to prevent an enemy break-through. By his well planned tactics the enemy attack was stemmed. His courageous example of coolness under fire inspired his men to hold the valuable terrain feature and saved the battalion from probably severe losses.

Private Clayton C. French moved his machine gun from a covered emplacement to an exposed position on the right flank in order to have better observation to prevent a breach which was imminent, and where, despite the artillery and small arms fire striking close around him, he laid down a band of fire across the right flank which was a major factor in breaking the attack. Private First Class Carlos C. Asin and Private First Class Alvard R. Buelna crossed an open area under the heavy enemy fire during the counter-attack and secured a machine gun after their own had jammed. They used the new gun to effective advantage against the enemy under the extremely hazardous conditions. Private First Class Buelna then exposed himself several times to locate and carry

³⁸ GOs No. 7 and 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 Jan. and 16, Feb. '44. 1 Lt. Phillips and S/Sgt. Vogel were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁹ GO No. 83, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Nov. '43. Pfc. Ulmer and Pvt. Mistretta were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁰ GOs No. 87, 90 and 110, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 23 Nov., 1 and 27 Dec. '43. 2 Lt. Rosplock, Pvt. Scheppard and 2 Lt. Melgard were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

up ammunition. Private Dave F. Scott, an assistant machine gunner, on the right flank, served his weapon in an open position under the heavy enemy artillery and small arms fire, supplying ammunition all the while. This was a great factor in stabilizing the right flank of the line and in repelling the attack. Private Charlie T. Tijerina, as machine gun ammunition carrier, delivered all his ammunition chests while under heavy enemy fire and then placed himself in an exposed position under the artillery and small arms fire, serving as a sniper protecting the company's right flank.

Corporal Hilman V. Crews, and Corporal Carl A. Stoessel, both squad leaders in the 81mm mortar section and Private First Class Weldon G. Thompson, mortarman, performed gallantly. They kept the mortar crews in action under the concentrated enemy artillery fire until the supply of ammunition was expended, when abandoned enemy mortar shells were found and used until also expended. The squads were then withdrawn and the mortar weapons placed in a cache under guard with instructions to destroy the weapons if the position were lost. The three men then armed themselves with rifles and Browning automatic rifles and joined the riflemen where their line was weakest and where the enemy fire was heaviest remaining there until the attack was successfully repelled.

The brave actions of these individuals so inspired others that the advancing Germans wilted under the deadly accurate fire, suffered heavy losses, and were repulsed.⁴¹

The Third Battalion started advancing from its positions south of Villa at noontime and also ran into an enemy counter-attack. Members of Company "M" on a flank position distinguished themselves through gallantry in action. Corporal Barney P. Gillard, Private First Class Regino B. Sanchez, Private Ira B. Garrett and Private Earl L. Shank were killed by the intense enemy fire while Sergeant Frank Kamadulski and several others were seriously wounded.

Private First Class Peter Locascio and Privates James C. Brier and William W. Webb stood by their machine gun and kept up a steady fire against the heavy opposition. Although supporting riflemen had been forced to retire due to lack of ammunition the machine gun squad remained alone on a flank position. Although they were fired upon by small arms and machine guns from a distance of twenty yards they held the position until the line was reformed and the enemy repulsed.⁴²

Under the intense machine pistol and grenade fire Second Lieutenant Raymond D. Ewing, of Company "M", reorganized a machine gun crew after one of its members was killed, repaired the gun and resumed fire. He then discovered the enemy re-assembling on the flank. He directed mortar fire and remained in an exposed position to observe the effects of the firing. His initiative and brilliant direction under fire were great factors in successfully repelling the attack.⁴³

As the enemy commenced rushing reinforcements from Liberi one platoon of Company "C", 84th Chemical Battalion, started firing in support of the Regiment.

Pressure of the Seventh Infantry impelled the enemy to withdraw from Villa and troops from the First Battalion occupied it at 1500.

16 October 1943, was a costly day for the Seventh Infantry with forty-five of its members killed in action, sixteen from the Second Battalion, sixteen from the Third Battalion, eleven from the First Battalion and two from the Medical Detachment. A total of eighty-five were wounded in action on that bloody day.

7th INFANTRY RESUMES THE ADVANCE 17 OCTOBER 1943

At 0600, 17 October 1943, the Seventh Infantry resumed the advance with the First Battalion, and the Third Battalion of the 15th Infantry, which had become attached the night before, making the assault.

The Red Battalion seized Mount Maro, its initial objective at 0715, then pushed on north. At 0939 the battalion was at Majorano di Monti. The attached battalion from the 15th Infantry seized the little town of Cese against no opposition. At 0835 the Second Battalion pushed through Villa and its two assault companies entered Liberi at 1000. By that time the Third Battalion, 15th Infantry had taken Mount Etna, Hill 667, and was detached in the afternoon.

Enemy resistance to the First Battalion stiffened toward noontime and the enemy counter-attack south of Majorano di Monti. In the afternoon the enemy hurled tank and machine gun fire at the Red Battalion forces. The Second Battalion became engaged in a heavy fire fight to the left of Majorano di Monti on the forward slopes of Hill 667.

Captain Leroy A. Haselwood, S-3 of the First Battalion, entered the town of Majorano di Monti in an effort to locate and direct artillery fire on an enemy tank. The tank, supported by a large body of Infantry had halted the advance of the First Battalion temporarily. Close range machine gun fire barely missed him, but he advanced four hundred yards to a building where he established an observation post and attempted to adjust fire on the enemy tank. Although he provided a constant target for aimed enemy machine gun fire, Captain Haselwood remained nevertheless in an exposed position and continued his efforts for three hours. Because of its deflated position, the enemy vehicle could not be reached by artillery, and Captain Haselwood retired from his observation post at dusk. Determined to eliminate this obstacle to his battalion's advance, Captain Haselwood located a bazooka crew and six riflemen whom he formed into an assault group to lead against the tank. At a point within fifty yards of the objective an enemy rifleman twenty yards from him opened fire. Captain Haselwood calmly dropped to one knee and shot the German with his carbine. This exchange of shots drew fire from seven hostile automatic weapons, and Captain Haselwood was fatally wounded. Despite his wounds and the massed automatic fire, he maneuvered his assault group so effectively that the tank was disabled in the ensuing fire fight. Captain Haselwood's courageous determination and inspiring leadership enabled the removal of an obstacle to the battalion's advance. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁴⁴

Late in the afternoon the Blue Battalion moved north up the winding road, and passed through the First Battalion for Dragoni, which the commanding general wanted by morning. The troops advanced along the ridge east of the road, against light opposition. At midnight the battalion was on Hill 371 south of Dragoni and sent out patrols.

The Second Battalion after overcoming enemy resistance west of Majorano di Monti drove on during the night, seized Mount Longo west of Dragoni and sent

⁴¹ For authority for DSC award to Capt. Athas see GO 8 Hq. 5th Army 17 Jan. 1944. For authority for Silver Star awards to Cpl. Stoessel, Pfc. Asin, Pfc. Buelna, Pfc. Thompson, Pvt. French, Pvt. Scott and Pvt. Tijerina see GOs 83, 84, 92 and 94 Hq. 3d Inf. Div. 5 and 11 Nov., 8 and 10 Dec. 1943.

⁴² GO No. 93, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Dec. '43. Pfc. Locascio, Privates Brier and Webb were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴³ GO No. 84, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Nov. '43. 2 Lt. Ewing was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁴ Ltr. Announcement of Awards, Hq. 3d Inf. Div. 8 June 1944.

out elements which cut the road to Baja e Latina. The Third Battalion advance elements crossed the road, encountered machine gun and mortar opposition but seized Hill 507 or Mount Pidoglaro southwest of Dragoni. The 168th Infantry of the 34th Infantry Division advancing from the east fired artillery on San Marco and the hills south of Dragoni which hindered the Blue Battalion forces. Patrols from the Third Battalion pushing on for Dragoni later contacted elements of the 34th Division and sent a patrol into the town. The Second Battalion from Mount Longo also sent a patrol into the town but the battalions were ordered to stay their advances.

General Truscott called Colonel Sherman and once more praised the inimitable "dogfaces" of the Seventh Infantry, saying, "You have done a damn good job with those battalions and I don't want them to go any farther. They are within reach of that road, and if they can put up their mortars where they can interdict it, then that will be all I want from them."⁴⁵

On 19 October, the Seventh Infantry assumed the mission of providing right flank protection for the Third Infantry Division along the west bank of the Volturno River, which was established as the dividing line between the 3rd and 34th Infantry Divisions. The first move sent the Second Battalion to positions on dominating ground south of Latina, a small village on a poorly constructed road, a few miles northwest of Dragoni. The Third



The German shown in civilian clothing was captured near the front on 21 October 1943 by Capt. Richard A. Smith, 7th Infantry S-1, who overheard him address the dog in German. The dog was used for messenger service by enemy troops. Left to right: Sgt. Roy Biehn, Capt. Smith and Lt. Col. Roy E. Moore.

Battalion relieved the 168th Infantry elements in Dragoni then moved on to establish an outpost line supported by armor, from Latina to the Volturno River. The Second Battalion sent patrols to Statigliano and Baja e Latina.

The following day the First Battalion and the Regimental Command Post assembled in and near Dragoni, as did Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies, which companies had followed the attack closely from the Volturno River but had seen no action.

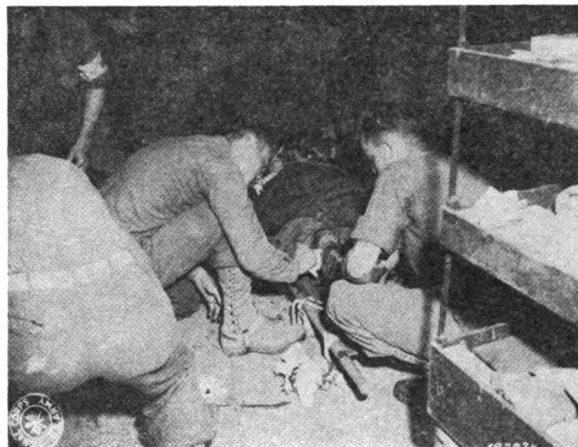
Second Battalion patrols were very active, captured sixty-two enemy during the night and on the 20th succeeded in ambushing some Germans with tanks in Latina. Six of the enemy were killed and fourteen, including one officer, were taken prisoners of war. The battalion reported the road to Moncioli mined, and requested artillery fire on Baja e Latina where an enemy battalion and tanks were reported located. The enemy intermittently shelled roads out of Latina.

On 21 October tank destroyers reported an enemy counter-attack coming down the road from Baja e Latina. The battalions were alerted and a platoon of Cannon Company was attached to the Third Battalion but the counter-attack never materialized. The Second Battalion moved to the high ground south of Baja e Latina and the outpost line was moved up between the town and the river. The Third Battalion moved over to positions in Latina vacated by the Second, as scattered enemy artillery fire was received.

Patrols from the Second and Third Battalions were active on the 22nd and continued to feel out enemy positions. White Battalion patrols reported Baja e Latina clear as Blue Battalion patrols followed a course parallel to the river and brought in one captured enemy. The Regiment lost a jeep that day blown up by an enemy mine. The Blue Battalion occupied Baja e Latina as the Red Battalion forces came out of reserve and occupied the high ground northwest of the town.

FIRST AND THIRD BATTALIONS RECONNOITER IN FORCE

During the night 22-23 October 1943 reconnaissance in force was initiated by the First and Third Battalions against the M Degli Angeli hill mass. Tanks and tank destroyers supported the advances but in the early morn-



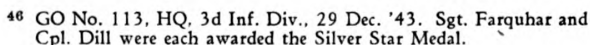
Capt. Hal Ferguson, the "Fedalaman," and Cpl. Robert Riddle, of Company "A," 3rd Medical Battalion, work over the leg of a "Cotton Baler" on 26 October 1943.

ing were held up due to heavy fog. At 0930 the bulk of the Third Battalion was in the draw south of Hill 180 as patrols received small arms fire from Hill 167 while artillery passed overhead into the flat. Request was sent to Division Headquarters for an artillery observation plane to reconnoiter enemy positions. At the same time Red Battalion patrols were just short of Hill 350 receiving enemy small arms and mortar fire and resistance from one machine gun. At 1000 the Blue Battalion had cleared Hill 180. The First Battalion received heavy small arms fire from Hill 450 and the road block which was established received heavy mortar and long range machine gun fire. The two battalions received heavy artillery fire throughout the afternoon. Contact was maintained by patrols with the 135th Infantry on the right.

When a platoon of Company "C" was assigned the mission of attacking and securing one of the hills Ser-

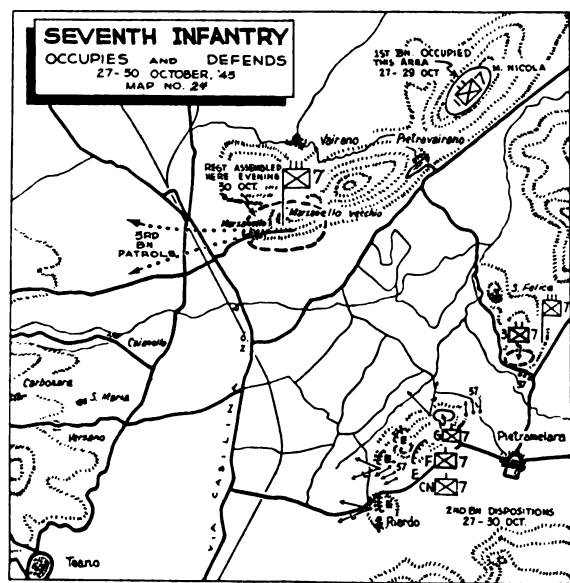
⁴⁵ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", p 65.

At 0600, 27 October, the First Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry to occupy the high ground northeast of Pietravairano. The remainder of the command moved to the vicinity of San Felice and Riardo during the afternoon and relieved elements of the 15th Infantry in that sector. The troops were disposed to protect the division left flank with outposts established and patrols conducted. The First Battalion returned to regimental control at San Felice on the 29th. On that day enemy



patrols towards the initial objectives. The First Battalion established a road block on the road to the west and sent out one patrol, while the Second Battalion established a road block, with a reinforced platoon and a platoon from Anti-Tank Company, at Caianello Vecchio, and sent a patrol to Versano and Casate. Another road block was established north of Caianello and a small patrol was sent toward Teano.

Following a one-half hour artillery preparation the Blue Battalion supported by Company "B", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "B", 751st Tank



Battalion, jumped off in the attack at 0800, 31 October. In sixty minutes time the troops of one company were on their initial objective encountering no opposition. Hill 250 was seized, then at 1418 the Third Battalion had seized Tuoro Furnaro, Terra Corpo and all the commanding ground of Marzano Appio without enemy contact. Patrols were sent out to the front and to the south two miles, where they contacted elements of the British 56th Division, thus eliminating the break that had existed for several days between British and American forces.

The Second Battalion which patrolled the roads throughout the day encountered numerous demolitions and brought in six Germans. It moved during the night to the triangle caused by the meeting of the roads near Madonna di Costantinopoli then moved across country to the northwest and by 0415, 1 November seized Civitella and surrounding high ground west of Via Casilina No. 6, against no opposition. Patrols immediately pushed on northwest to Picilli where the road through the town was found to be completely blocked by demolished buildings.

The Third Battalion attacked to the northwest from the vicinity of Terra Corpo at 0700, 1 November. Enemy machine gun fire was encountered. At 1255 forward elements were on the objective just east of Viapiana receiving small arms fire. Artillery started to drop on the troops. In the afternoon advance elements trapped two hundred Boche in the vicinity of Conca Della Campania, captured the group, with several vehicles, including one American half-track and two jeeps.

The First Battalion moved to an assembly area behind the Third Battalion during the day. At midnight one Third Battalion patrol was fired on by a large calibre

tank, or armored car weapons, and machine guns two hundred yards northeast of Roccamonfina as the enemy controlled the road from Roccamonfina to Vezzara.

Early on 2 November the First Battalion moved from its assembly area abreast of the Third Battalion on the left and at 0915 the two battalions jumped off to the northwest in the attack.

The Blue Battalion forces headed for Mount Friello and encountered small arms, machine gun and mortar fire. One enemy machine gun nest was knocked out with two enemy killed and two more captured. At 1715 Company "I" was on Hill 380 with the remainder of the battalion coming up behind through Conca della Campania. Late in the afternoon Company "I" was just south of Mount Friello receiving artillery fire from the north. The Red Battalion also encountered enemy small arms and machine gun fire but advanced steadily.

The following day the First and Third Battalions continued their attacks and Company "E" of the Second Battalion was committed. The Blue Battalion attacked Mount Friello following an artillery preparation. The two forward companies, "I" and "L", met resistance from infantry units and artillery weapons. Company "K" was committed on the left of "L".

The enemy threw a heavy counter-attack against Company "L" which was repulsed with casualties to both sides. During the action Private Leo Lahna kept his machine gun in constant operation, in spite of heavy shelling, until it jammed. Then he acquired an M-1 rifle and joined the front line. In the action that resulted in the successful rout of the enemy, Private Lahna was killed.⁴⁷ Several casualties were sustained from German Schu mines but in spite of all resistance encountered the Blue Battalion seized the mountain top. Outposts were established and a patrol sent to the road junction south of Mignano.

Company "E" continued to occupy Hill 335. A patrol sent out from the company on 2 November reported back to its parent organization with a highly satisfactory report. The patrol which contacted the First and Third Battalions on 2 November had continued on to San Clemente where it engaged two enemy machine guns on the outskirts of the town which were protecting enemy demolition squads at work. The riflemen knocked out the enemy machine guns and stormed into San Clemente killed several German engineers and engaged enemy fleeing the town. Four members of the patrol were wounded but returned with the group.

A squad which was part of a combat patrol from Company "G" on 3 November had received heavy machine gun fire from a German out-post. After placing his squad in a favorable firing position Sergeant Earl Corbin moved forward alone, opened fire on the enemy with his sub-machine gun, killed eight of the enemy and thus enabled his squad to complete its mission. Although seriously wounded in this action Sergeant Corbin refused medical aid and continued leading his squad until the mission was completed. His skillful and direct action in handling the enemy machine gun nest undoubtedly saved the lives of his squad members.⁴⁸

The next day, the 4th, the Blue Battalion remained in position on Mount Friello and patrolled toward Mignano as the First Battalion continued the attack for the important road junction south of Mignano. One platoon of Company "B" secured the road junction as Company "C" seized Hill 205. One platoon of Company "C" moved to establish a road block with bazookas at Anno-lise.

⁴⁷ GO No. 97, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Dec. '43. Pvt. Lahna was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁸ GO No. 111, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 Dec. '43. Sgt. Corbin was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On 1 November the Seventh Infantry had reached the Barbara Line, the German defense line confronting the entire Fifth Army from the heights overlooking the upper Volturno through Mount Massico Ridge to the sea. In front of the Seventh Infantry it was a well defended line on bald and rugged mountains and was designed to delay attacking forces until the Winter Line with Monte Cassino as the strong point should be completed to the northwest.

The American VI Corps planned to attack the German Barbara Line with the same three divisions, 3d, 34th and 45th. The 34th, and the 45th which had been in Corps reserve since 20 October and was fresh, were to cross the upper Volturno while the Third on the left was to continue driving back the Herman Goering Panzer Division.

The enemy tactics and the Fifth Army actions from the Volturno to the Barbara Line have been described as follows:

Between the Volturno and the Barbara Line the enemy had planned his actions to gain the greatest amount of time with the least expenditure of force. Outnumbered by the Allies and facing superior air and fire power, the Germans had to depend on their skill in using the advantages of the terrain. The nature of the operation, a planned withdrawal, enabled them to make a careful study of the areas which they expected the British and Americans to occupy. In defiladed or densely wooded ground, their effective shelling showed that they had precise registrations on likely approaches, gun positions, and troop locations and could fire on these targets without direct observation. Whenever the Fifth Army might move or bivouac, the enemy placed mines and booby traps, across roads and railways, blocking the way around demolitions, in streams and river banks, and in towns and villages. Anti-personnel mines lay concealed along hedges and walls, and booby traps were set in haystacks, ravines, and olive groves, and on hillsides and terraces.

To counteract the limitation in strength caused by commitments to other fronts and by previous losses, the Germans had primarily used small, mobile infantry units for these rearguard actions, reinforcing them with heavy weapons. Self-propelled guns, which could be hidden again walls or among trees and quickly moved back after covering the Infantry's withdrawal, were effective and economical weapons. Along the coast in the British zone, where the open plain offered few natural defensive positions, the enemy had concentrated his strength in the towns. Inland, his troops had held on to the heights above the villages, from which they could command Allied approaches and cover their own escape. If they were driven from these heights, they counter-attacked only when there was a chance of imposing further delay; otherwise they withdrew to selected positions, waiting always until darkness hid their movements from Allied air patrols.

Against these tactics the Fifth Army had, in twenty days of fighting, secured its bridgehead along the entire length of the lower Volturno River and had advanced fifteen to twenty miles along a forty mile front. Despite the bad weather, Allied fighter-bombers had struck the enemy again and again in the area at the head of the valley. The Fifth Army had not engaged the main enemy forces, but the fact that its advanced elements had overrun several enemy gun positions indicated that the Germans were withdrawing faster than they had intended.⁴⁹

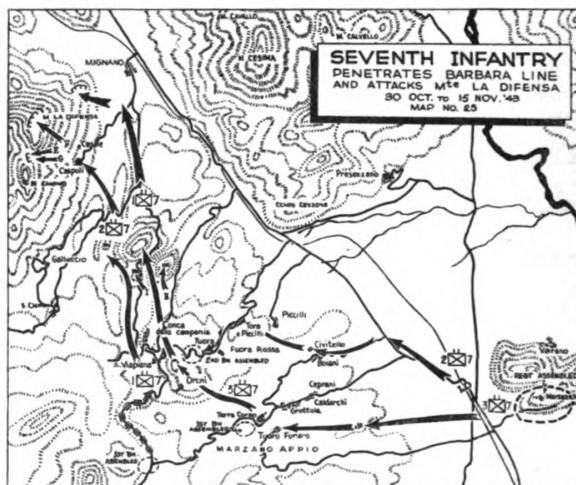
7th INFANTRY ATTACKS THE BARBARA LINE. 5-15 NOVEMBER 1943

On 5 November the Third Infantry Division was poised to make its attack on Mignano situated in the wide gap of mountains where the Germans had established their Barbara line. A communications and defensive center, Mignano was of tremendous value to the Germans. The Third Division must gain the mountains on the flanks before the gap could be controlled. General Truscott sent the 30th Infantry, which had been in reserve, after Mount Rotundo and Mount Lungo on the northwest. The Seventh Infantry was to attack Mount Camino and Mount la Di Fensa to the southwest. The 15th Infantry which captured Mount Cesima was to advance from the east.

On 5 November the Second Battalion moved up to the front with the First Battalion. Moving out of its assembly area at 0530 the battalion crossed the line of departure, the road junction held by Company "B", at 0900. Encountering only light mortar fire initially the battalion overran Caspoli. Casale was seized early in the afternoon one enemy machine gun was knocked out on the right flank.

Two platoons of Company "E" moving into the saddle which separates Mount Camino from Mount la Di Fensa encountered machine gun, mortar and grenade fire from the saddle and the right of the saddle. Numerous casualties were suffered from the enemy fire.

Staff Sergeant Jean C. Davis and Sergeant James P. Goodwin moved forward to exposed positions to locate several dug-in enemy positions, which were holding up the progress of the platoons and inflicting damage. While so doing they became targets for intense small arms fire.



They remained in their exposed positions and directed fire from both Cannon Company and the chemical mortars, which reduced the enemy's fire to a minimum, making it possible for the platoons to organize successful defensive positions and evacuate wounded personnel.⁵⁰

Staff Sergeant Floyd S. Casey of Company "E" went into the midst of the concentrations, administered first aid to the wounded men and then moved many of them to a place of comparative safety.⁵¹

The First Battalion on the right jumped off in the attack toward Mignano at noontime. Encountering small arms, machine gun and direct artillery fire the Red Battalion troops advanced to a point about five hundred yards southwest of Mignano where they held up for the night and prepared defensive positions. Intensive patrolling was carried on. One patrol entered Mignano.

During the night the Second Battalion strove to reach its objective but failed due to enemy hand grenade and machine gun fire. A Company "C" outpost killed four enemy and wounded others during the night.

Early on 6 November the Third Battalion was placed in Division reserve while the Second continued to push forward. Companies "E" and "G" rushed the Mount Camino hill mass striving to gain observation on the

⁴⁹ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", pp 81-83.

⁵⁰ GO No. 97, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Dec. '43. S/Sgt. Davis and Sgt. Goodwin were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵¹ GO No. 102, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Dec. '43. S/Sgt. Casey was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

heights dominating the saddle. Mortar and artillery fire were received. One reinforced platoon succeeded in nearing the top of Mount Camino as a platoon of enemy infantry and six machine guns strategically located held up the Second Battalion. In the afternoon the commanding officer was convinced that it was practically impossible to reach the mountain top in daytime because of direct observation on the part of the enemy on any route of approach.

All attempts to take the mountain and saddle that day ceased. Approximately twenty-five casualties were suffered by the White Battalion that day. The wounded lay in their exposed positions until darkness when some were evacuated as enemy snipers fired on the litter squads.

The Red Battalion remained in position during the day and sent out a reinforced platoon to establish an observation post to view to the northwest. Vigorous patrols were maintained encountering enemy machine gun fire. The battalion supported an attack of the 15th Infantry during the day. Enemy observers were seen in houses near the top of Monte Cassino. Artillery and Cannon Company fire were directed on the mountain.

Early on 7 November the First Battalion Platoon was counter-attacked and driven from its position while the Second Battalion continued the attack on Mount Camino and Mount la Di Fensa. Troops nearing the top of one of the ridges encountered enemy fire from machine guns and Infantry troops. Company "F" progressed slowly up la Di Fensa against stiff resistance from enemy machine guns located on the rocky slopes above. As "F" approached the top mortar fire was mixed in with the enemy machine gun fire and a bitter struggle ensued. The enemy had direct observation on all routes of advance and many casualties resulted. At 1610 Company "F" won a great victory by crowning one of the heights of Mount la Di Fensa. The company then dug-in as best as possible. Meanwhile troops of Company "E" and "G" became locked in a terrific struggle for the saddle separating the two peaks, which became drenched in blood shed by casualties suffered by both sides. The enemy continued to control the saddle at the close of the day.

The First Battalion continued its attack for Hill 358 and at 1330 Company "A" was on the hill with Company "B" on the nose. One hundred Germans made a fierce counter-attack on Company "A" and succeeded in regaining the hill top. Company "C" was pulled in from its mission of patrolling the 15th Infantry left flank.

The evacuation of casualties that day was extremely difficult due to the terrain and accurate enemy sniper fire.

A platoon of 75mm cannon and a platoon of 105s of Cannon Company took up firing positions to support the Second Battalion.

Early 8 November Companies "A" and "B" attacked Hill 385 and made very slow progress due to the difficult terrain and enemy opposition. During the night 8-9 November intermittent artillery was received. The companies continued their slow progress the following morning. Machine gun fire from the slopes above hindered the advance. In mid-morning the troops became engaged in a heavy fire fight. The supplies of water and ammunition were dangerously low. The commanding officer reported it was impossible to advance further until the supplies were replenished.

The Second Battalion moved one company at a time to join Company "F" on Mount la Di Fensa and was opposed by the ever present enemy machine gun fire. At 1440 Company "E" had joined "F" while "G" and "H" were half way up the mountain. During the night the Second Battalion attempted further advances and

was intermittently fired upon throughout the night. More casualties were suffered.

Shortly after noon 9 November Companies "A" and "B" found themselves between two groups of Germans and received a strong counter-attack. The brisk fight that ensued was won by the Red Battalion troops. After sixteen of their comrades had been killed and one wounded in the hand-to-hand, close-in fighting on the sharp, ragged heights, twenty-four members of the 8th Panzer Grenadiers including two officers surrendered to the victorious "Cotton Balermen."

The Second Battalion troops also won a great victory that afternoon in a fire fight that lasted several hours. It was estimated that the White Battalion riflemen killed from fifty to seventy of the enemy on both flanks.

On 10 November both the Red and White Battalions remained generally in position with only local attacks. Both battalions waited the arrival of ammunition, water and rations but were in contact with the enemy throughout the day.

That day Staff Sergeant Richard L. Fisher of Company "G" on his own initiative left his covered position and scaled a high rock ledge to within fifteen yards of the enemy. Although he faced severe fire Staff Sergeant Fisher remained in observation for ten minutes, and definitely located the enemy positions. He then returned to the company command post and personally directed mortar and cannon fire on the enemy positions with good results.⁵²

Evacuation of casualties from the mountains was difficult. A minimum of six hours was required to bring litter cases to the base of the mountains. Supplying the troops was a great problem. Everything had to be hand carried or dropped by plane. A man could only manage with a small amount since both hands were required to make the heights.

The Second Battalion had enough rations that day to feed only one meal to one company. To make matters worse high wind kept grounded the cub plane that was loaded with supplies.

Enemy patrols continued their harassing action, one infiltrating through the First Battalion front lines before being detected and driven off.

Though still suffering from lack of food and water the Second Battalion asked that no further use be made of the supply planes as it did not wish to disclose its positions and thus draw additional fire.

**PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FLOYD K. LINDSTROM
WINS CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR
FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY ON
MOUNT LA DI FENSA**

On 11 November the Second Battalion was subjected to a severe concentration of mortar, machine gun and rifle fire which caused casualties and some disorganization among the troops. Because of their exposed positions and low supplies the troops withdrew to positions affording more protection but held.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation Lieutenant Colonel Everett W. Duvall left the battalion observation post, advanced through heavy machine gun fire, and proceeded to reorganize the battalion to positions of greater safety. During this action he received a serious leg wound, but remained at his position refusing medical attention until the reorganization had been completed and the

⁵² GO No. 246, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 Oct. '44. S/Sgt. Fisher was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵³ GO No. 13, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Jan. '44. Lt. Col. Duvall was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

situation brought under control. His bravery and cool leadership under fire were an inspiration to his men.⁵³

The Second Platoon of Company "H" which was depleted to fourteen men and two serviceable guns was attached to Company "E" to furnish machine gun support. Private First Class Floyd K. Lindstrom was one of the gunners.

At about 0900 approximately forty enemy launched a counter-attack against the left flank of Company "E" and forced the riflemen and half the machine gun section to retire to a defensive position.

"... The enemy, from his position on the commanding heights," said Pvt. Marvin D. Crone, Assistant Gunner, "had excellent observation and when he opened fire on us he was deadly accurate. The bulk of the enemy were two hundred yards above us when he attacked. 'E' Company withdrew about one hundred fifty yards, because there was not enough cover for them at this point, leaving our machine gun section out in front.

"Even though he saw the rifle company withdraw, PFC Lindstrom nevertheless instantly and without orders immediately set up a defensive position and opened fire with his machine gun. The enemy fire became intense as they started dropping a great number of mortar shells in our 'section' area and commenced to rake our positions with machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire.

"... Lindstrom insisted on moving forward alone another ten yards for a better field of fire. He picked up the machine gun bodily and moved up hill over the rocky ground with his one hundred twelve pound load. In doing this he became the direct target of machine gun and small arms fire from some of the enemy who weren't more than fifteen to twenty yards away... At least thirty-five hand grenades of the concussion variety were thrown at PFC Lindstrom in an attempt to silence his gun.

"Lindstrom was aiming for one German machine gun and crew in particular when he singlehandedly carried his heavy machine gun forward, because he saw that it was the chief supporting weapon in the German counter-attack. Despite the heavy fire from their mortars and machine pistols, he moved to within about fifteen yards of this machine gun even though it was firing at him and missing him only by inches.

"I could hear the Jerries yelling at him in pidgin English, 'American soldier—you give up—we treat you fine—you no surrender, plenty trouble—we got you surrounded!' This was repeated time and again and each time Lindstrom answered, 'Go to hell!' and gave them another burst of fire from his machine gun...

"When Lindstrom saw that the attack was likely to succeed if the enemy machine gun were not put out of action, he yelled at me to cover him with my rifle, that he was going to 'get that machine gun,' and armed only with the .45 caliber pistol which he always had at his hip, he frontally assaulted the machine gun in a mad up-hill dash. The Germans saw him coming and let go a continuous stream of fire which kicked up the dirt inches behind his heels as he ran at them. Somehow he miraculously escaped being hit by the continuous chain of automatic fire from the machine gun, got right on top of the gunners and shot them to death with his pistol. He then returned, dragging the German machine gun behind him, after which he braved more enemy fire to go back to their position and return with two full boxes of ammunition which he directed us to emplace and put to use in countering the enemy attack. We received no support from our other machine gun during the counter-attack because it was unable to fire on the enemy from its position..."

Said Corporal Nicholas Alfier: "Lindstrom gave the gun to me telling me to use it on the German Infantry,

and he immediately went back to his gun and opened fire.

"Lindstrom's spectacular action and withering machine gun fire completely demoralized the Germans and their counter-attack seemed to disintegrate..."

"The rifle company and the other machine gun of our section attempted to come to our aid while the attack was going on," said Private Sam G. Rohan, "but PFC Lindstrom so effectively handled the situation that it was all over before they could get into action..."

For this conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty Private First Class Lindstrom was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest valor award.⁵⁴ He was the first "Cotton Baler" to win the award in the Second World War. Later he was killed in action.

Corporal Alfier performed gallantly on that day also. Once when nine casualties occurred in the section including First Lieutenant Russell W. Newberry and Sergeant John D. Elmes killed in action, Corporal Alfier braved the heavy fire to rally the remainder of the section, crawling from man to man over the bare terrain, devoid of cover and in full view of the enemy, giving orders and encouraging each individual. By his brilliant example, he inspired the men to withstand the determined counter-attack. He was later promoted to the grade of technical sergeant but was killed as a result of subsequent action.⁵⁵

Major John A. Elterich, of Headquarters Staff, Second Battalion, climbed to an observation post fully exposed to enemy observation and heavy small arms and mortar fire and personally directed the fire of Cannon Company and the chemical mortars, which aided greatly in stopping the enemy thrust.⁵⁶

Cannon Company performed a fine job 11 November supporting the rifle battalions and received counter-battery fire. Casualties were sustained by the company and a jeep was destroyed. A platoon from the Second Chemical Battalion was attached to the Regiment and given the mission of supporting the Second Battalion.

Shortly before dark a platoon of Company "B" stealthily attempted to take a small knoll but was discovered and beaten back with heavy losses. Second Lieutenant Lewis S. Gregory was killed.

After Cannon Company and artillery laid-in with several concentrations and the 4.2 chemical mortars thoroughly smoked the area the Regiment was able to evacuate some of the casualties that had been lying for days, unable however, to be carried down the precipitous mountain sides. Private Warner W. Pye of the Medical Detachment performed gallantly during the November days of 1943 on Mount la Di Fensa, crawling from one wounded man to another and administering first aid to all he could reach. He performed his errands of mercy while under intense enemy artillery, machine gun, mortar and grenade fire and while enemy snipers fired at the wounded.⁵⁷

The Third Battalion was in division reserve twice during the period 6-12 November and also assisted the attack of the 30th Infantry by occupying strong defensive positions. Several moves were made by the battalion and throughout the period it patrolled vigorously. One patrol was out three days before it returned.

From three observation posts the First Battalion could

⁵⁴ For authority see GO No. 32 War Dept., Wash., D. C., 20 April 1944.

⁵⁵ GO No. 212, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 Oct. '44. T/Sgt. Alfier was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁶ GO No. 48, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 April '44. Maj. Elterich was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁷ GO No. 92, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Dec. '43. Pvt. Pye was awarded the Silver Star Medal. Medal GO 92 Hq. 3d Inf. Div. 8 Dec. 1943.

watch enemy movements in the valley beyond, leading to Monte Cassino, but 12 November passed with each attempted thrust forward stopped by the enemy forces. Civilians reported that the Germans had spent two months preparing defensive positions along the Cassino line.

Following an artillery, cannon and mortar concentration the Second Battalion attempted another push forward to gain control of all of Mount la Di Fensa. However one knob of the mountain could not be cleared that day. A perpendicular cliff sixty feet high confronted the troops and was the main obstacle. The preparation put on by the artillery, Cannon Company and the mortars took its toll of the enemy however, as German aid men were seen cleaning up casualties.

Tanks and tank destroyers tried to get through the flats in the vicinity of Mignano but only one got near enough to deliver several rounds before it became bogged down in the slimy mud of the flat bottom.

The battalions remained in position 13 November but patrolled vigorously. The artillery, Cannon Company and chemical mortars were unusually busy that day and kept the enemy fairly quiet.

During the night 13-14 November the Second Battalion left Company "G", reinforced, on Mount la Di Fensa and withdrew the rest of the battalion. The following day Company "K", reinforced, relieved Company "G". The White Battalion troops who had suffered much from exposure, the enemy, and lack of food, assembled in the vicinity of Casate.

The artillery observers fired missions on Cassino targets throughout 14 November. The Third Battalion sent out security patrols and patrolled in the flats west of Mignano.

The First and Third Battalions held their positions until 16 November, made local attacks and patrolled extensively as the artillery, Cannon Company and the 4.2 mortars plastered enemy positions, but the enemy returned fire. Many of the patrols were long overdue in reporting back to their units. Corporal Harold L. Fernald, Jr., and Private Charles F. Niles, both of Company "K", performed gallantly on one occasion while members of a successful combat patrol on a mission into enemy territory.⁵⁸

During the action of those days gallant deeds were performed. Staff Sergeant Chester B. Barnes, himself wounded, rescued his seriously wounded platoon leader, Second Lieutenant Joseph F. Rosplock of Company "K", then assumed command and continued the fight. Second Lieutenant Victor D. Reynolds of Company "A" displayed great leadership while under machine gun, rifle grenade and heavy rifle fire.⁵⁹

While leading an important reconnaissance patrol near Mignano, Second Lieutenant Howard V. Gebing, of Company "I," placed his men in a position of cover, and advanced alone to investigate a suspicious building. When he was about seventy-five yards from the building he was fatally wounded in the chest by rifle fire. Ordering his platoon not to evacuate him but to bring fire on the enemy he retained control of the situation for about two hours, issuing instructions verbally and by hand and arm signals. Staff Sergeant Frank W. Bolson carried out the instructions of his wounded platoon leader. The heroism and fortitude of the dying officer and the gallant conduct of the non-commissioned officer saved the entire platoon from destruction and caused the elimination of the hostile stronghold.⁵⁹

During the attack against Mount la Di Fensa the Seventh Infantry had suffered much but took a terrific toll from the enemy. Having advanced steadily since 22 September across rugged terrain, crossed the Volturno and advanced over more rugged terrain against strong

opposition to the Barbara Line, "Cotton Baler" ranks were depleted when this last attack was launched.

During November 1943 the troops suffered severely from cold and exposure, many having little more clothing than they had worn in Sicily during the extreme summer heat. Supplying the troops was very difficult and the problem was never solved satisfactorily due to the treacherous terrain cut by the deep gorges and precipitous ridges. Carrying parties could bring only limited amounts of



Fifteen of the 278 "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives during the southern Italy Campaign: 1. Cpl. James W. Fairchild, Co. "C". 2. Lt. Lewis S. Gregory, Co. "B". 3. Pvt. Kenneth R. Ackley, Co. "E". 4. Pvt. Alonzo Allen, Co. "H". 5. Sgt. John C. Mitchell, Co. "I". 6. Pfc. Edwin McCrea, Co. "H". 7. 1 Lt. Alexander H. Russell, Co. "F". 8. Pfc. Delmar R. Fortin, Co. "M". 9. Cpl. William C. Foley, A. T. Co. 10. 2 Lt. John R. Banks, Regtl. Hq. Co. 11. 2 Lt. Vernon W. Young, 1 Bn. Hq. Co. 12. 1 Lt. Clarence S. Parrish, Co. "I". 13. 1 Lt. Edmund Wroe, Jr., 3 Bn. Hq. Co. 14. Capt. Coy L. Morgan, Co. "E". 15. Pfc. Russell B. Lautenschlager, Jr., Co. "K".

⁵⁸ GOs No. 94 and 102, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 and 17 Dec. '43. Cpl. Fernald and Pvt. Niles were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁹ GOs No. 94, 111, 113 and 168, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10, 28 and 29 Dec. '43 and 20 May '45. 2 Lt. Gebing (posthumously), 2 Lt. Reynolds, S/Sgt. Barnes and S/Sgt. Bolson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

food, ammunition, and equipment on the backs of the men as hands were needed in climbing. Mules could not negotiate the cliffs. Only a little supply was dropped by planes as they were often grounded because of inclement weather and then, after initial attempts to drop supplies, commanders requested no further use be made of the planes as they gave away troop locations to the enemy. Medical aid men and litter bearers worked heroically under the worst conditions they had ever experienced, made worse by enemy snipers.

The soldiers who fought there and endured such hardships will never forget Mount la Di Fensa. Since 5 November sixty-three of their buddies had been killed in action and one hundred sixty wounded. Five were missing in action and two had been taken prisoners by the enemy.

Other forces of the Allied Fifth Army were as exhausted, and in some cases more so, than the "Cotton Balermen." On the left the troops of the British Tenth Corps were badly in need of rest.

The 201 Guards began to show signs of exhaustion by 10 November. The weather was becoming colder and the rains more frequent. Enemy counter-attacks and probings disturbed the troops constantly. The two forward companies, attacking Hill 819, suffered sixty percent casualties, almost all their officers were killed or wounded. During five nights and four days they had a 24-hour haversack ration, an emergency ration, and one water bottle per man. Their wounded lay on the ground without blankets, in cold that was almost freezing.

The VI Corps was everywhere held up by bad weather, mountainous terrain, and stubborn enemy resistance. The enemy had strengthened his left flank again on 9 November by bringing in the 26th Panzer Division. . . . Soldiers suffered from the rain and cold and from lack of hot meals. The divisions needed rest and replacements if they were to maintain efficiency and high morale. General Clark considered these circumstances and stopped the advance on 15 November.⁶⁰

On the right of the Regiment the 15th and 30th Infantry regiments were busy digging in for protection from enemy mortar and artillery fire and tried to keep warm. On the right of the Third Division the 34th and 45th Divisions had been through some fierce fighting crossing the upper Volturno and pushing on into the mountains. The 133rd Infantry had suffered four officers and eighty-one enlisted men killed, twenty-four officers and two hundred sixteen enlisted men wounded.

and six men missing in crossing the river. Casualties of other regiments were not light.

Seventh Infantry men were glad to turn over their positions to fresh laughing troops of the 36th Infantry Division many of whom entered the lines for the first time with ample supplies and heavy clothing not knowing what was in store for them.

The First Battalion Command Post received a direct artillery hit at 1630 killing Privates Thomas J. Anderson and Gilbert D. Tones. Staff Sergeant William A. Niemeyer and Private Glen E. Hardeman were wounded.

Relief for the First Battalion and Third Battalion (Company "K") was commenced early 16 November and completed that afternoon. Company "K" was relieved during the night and assembled with the two battalions in the vicinity of Baja e Latina. On the 17th the Second Battalion moved from Riando to the Baja e Latina area.

The Campaign of Southern Italy was over for the Seventh Infantry. As far as the "Cotton Balers" were concerned the campaign fell into four distinct phases, namely, (1) pursuit action from Montecorvino to the Volturno River, (2) the Volturno River crossing in the face of a strong well entrenched enemy, (3) pursuit action from the Volturno River to the Barbara Line, the outer defenses of the German Winter Line hinged on Cassino, and (4) assault on the Barbara Line.

The enemy, a most difficult terrain and miserable weather had not stopped the Seventh Infantry in its relentless drive, but the troops needed a long rest. The accomplishments of the Regiment were not won without heavy cost. A total of 278 lost their lives during the campaign, 33 were listed as missing in action, 672 were wounded in action and 41 were taken prisoners by the enemy. The roughest days were 13 and 16 October 1943 when 41 and 47 members, respectively, were killed in action.

While the fight had raged on Mount la Difensa in November, 1943, one "Cotton Baler" from Anti-Tank Company composed verse which praised the Regiment. The poem is here published:

⁶⁰ "From the Volturno to the Winter Line", pp 106-111.

Willing and Able

We left the States a year ago,
Fedala saw us land;
And so when Casablanca fell,
The Seventh was on hand.

We marched the highway to Rabat,
But rest I will assure;
Was not in line for "Andy's men."
We hit the road—5 per!

We bade our Anderson farewell,
He'd gained the victor's realm;
But the mighty Third held true to faith
With Truscott at the helm.

We drilled and drilled for many days,
And then we travelled east;
But Tunis and Bizarte fell,
Before we joined the feast.

It wasn't long before we sailed,
The Mediterranean blue;
And took the shores of Sicily,
With colors flying true.

We fought our way through rugged hills,
We saw the Jerries flee;
Then came the great Palermo dash,
A feat in history.

'Twas there we gained a breathing spell,
Then, to the fight again;
To take the dry and rocky steeps,
Where others fought in vain.

The battles raged for many days,
We conquered hill and vale;
And took each city in our stride,
Till Hitler's troops turned pale.

We fought and died as fearless men,
We went through earthly hell;
But still we were the front line troops,
When old Messina fell.

The Third Division did their share,
The grand Fifteenth's "Can do";
Were in the thick of many fights,
But held their motto true.

Then too, the Valiant Thirtieth,
Hit twice behind Herr's line;
"Our Country, not ourselves," they cried,
They're truly soldiers fine.

'Twas only then we took a rest,
Which justly we deserved;
But knew indeed the day would come,
We'd fight again unswerved.

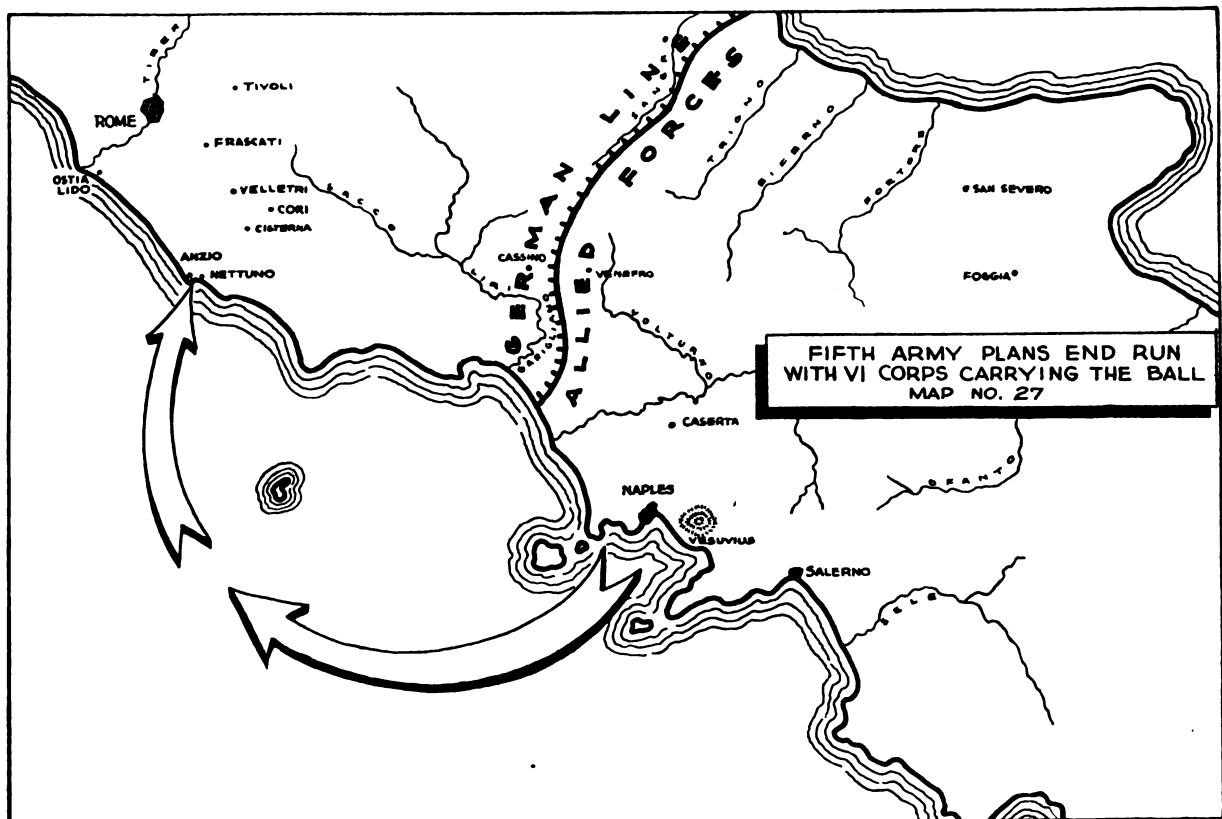
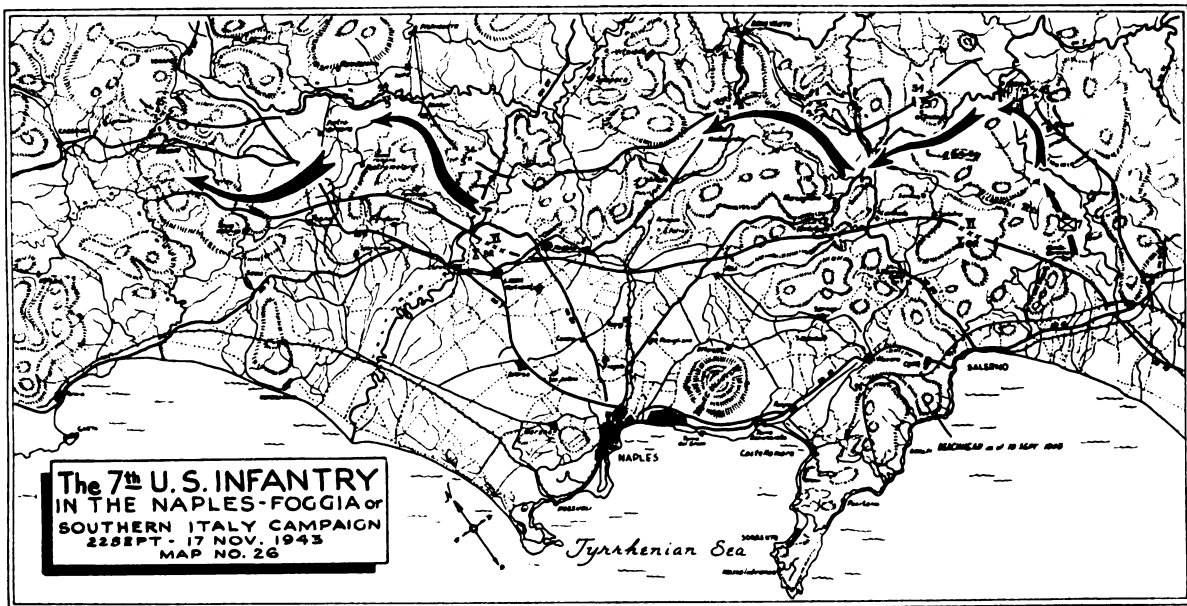
The day is here, we're fighting on,
We're now in Italy;
But you can always count on us,
Till final victory.

First Avellino fell to us,
As cities met their doom;
Then soon Volturno's bed we crossed,
And headed on toward Rome.

And so the battle rages on,
Our motto still we cry:
"Willing and Able" to the last,
We'll fight on—do or die.

Just read the history comments and
I'm sure you will agree;
That there is none which can compare
With the Seventh Infantry.

Sgt. Wilmer Feldman,
Anti-Tank Company,
7th Infantry.



PART FOUR

The Anzio—Rome Campaign

CHAPTER I

Preparation and Planning

From 18 November to 30 December 1943 the Seventh Infantry bivouaced around Baja e Latina, Italy. After a few days of rest and recuperation for the men and officers who survived the previous campaign, replacements refilled the ranks and training schedules were undertaken to prepare the Regiment for new combat. As the training continued its pace accelerated and the men engaged in many night problems, long speed marches and practice river crossings. On 28 December the commanding officer was notified that the Regiment would participate in an amphibious operation known by the code name "Shingle", which had been under consideration by higher military authorities for some time.

Training activities in the Baja e Latina area were suspended and during the last days of 1943 the Seventh Infantry shifted to a new locale, the Piano di Quarto area about ten miles northwest of Naples. The new area was a great improvement over the muddy flats of Baja e Latina, as the ground was sandy and well drained, with gravel surfaced connecting roads. A vigorous training schedule, calling for a minimum of twelve hours in the field and night amphibious exercises, was conducted. Physical conditioning was stressed with the speed march an important feature of the program.

The First Battalion was designated as the regimental beach assault battalion and trained separately from the rest of the regiment in the passage of beach obstacles, unloading of both personnel and equipment, combat firing and general orientation. Anti-pillbox squads were organized in the assault battalion and received special training in the reduction of strong points and pillboxes, using rifle and hand-grenades, bazookas, pole charges, and other expedients. The First Battalion commenced its training with a speed march to the beach, followed by day and night landings from invasion craft. As a result of an unfortunate accident twenty-six enlisted men and one member of the Medical Detachment were injured and required hospitalization, and replacements were brought from the Naples depot. On 5 January, the battalion moved five miles to a bivouac area nearer the sea, so that less time would be required in marching to and from the beach. Troops spent as much time on the water as on land, becoming experts at landing under any conceivable condition. Beach defenses were constructed by other units and the assault troops practiced their destruction by a variety of methods. Instruction was given on mines and booby traps in an endeavor to hold down casualties from those weapons.

Anti-tank gun crews mounted their weapons on specially constructed platforms on DUKWS and fol-

lowed the foot troops ashore practicing firing from both water and land.† Cannon Company divided its time between physical conditioning and gun drills.

The Second and Third Battalions placed more emphasis on the reduction of secondary defenses which they might expect to encounter after passing through the assault wave and started off with gun drill, speed marches and one mile runs, which distance was soon increased to two miles. Exercises were conducted in reducing pillboxes and storming strong points. A great deal of ammunition was expended in simulating combat firing to assure accuracy with all weapons. Troops practiced infiltrating enemy lines under cover of darkness for the purpose of creating confusion in enemy rear areas. Reconnaissance had shown that the proposed terrain was suitable for enemy employment of armor, and methods were devised to combat them successfully with Infantry weapons.

Service units conducted classes in demolitions, mines and booby trap detection, bridge building and organization of beach parties and groups. Plans were made for waterproofing vehicles, appointing TQMs, and storing equipment.§

The Regimental S-3, Major Frank C. Sinsel, joined a planning board conducted by Fifth Army at Caserta, while the Regimental S-2, Captain Lee L. Dymock, prepared a sand table project of the beach to be assaulted. The commanding officer discussed the plans and scheme of maneuver with the battalion commanders while briefing in turn was carried out with smaller unit commanders and responsible non-commissioned officers. A high level of security was maintained throughout the training and planning period.

On 9 January, the entire Regiment participated in a twenty-five mile tactical march, carrying combat loads over terrain similar to that expected in the vicinity of the enemy beach. The next day the Regiment prepared for a two-day landing exercise. This problem was conducted to iron out loading details previous to participation in the division problem which was to climax the training period. Most of the day was required to insure that each unit was in its proper station. In the evening, the convoy moved out to sea, standing off Coroglio Beach early the next morning. Troops swarmed ashore in a simulated attack against other division units defending the area. As vehicles were not yet waterproofed they could not be unloaded under tactical conditions. On the

† DUKW was an official Army designation for the 2½-ton amphibious truck. The popular pronunciation was "duck".

§ TQM was an Army abbreviation for Transport Quartermaster.

completion of the problem, the troops hiked ten miles to their bivouac area.

Additional classes were held during the next two days, with all units in the field perfecting attack technique. Sand tables were studied by officers and non-commissioned officers until all terrain features and landmarks were firmly in mind. Some units organized defenses for another regiment's landing. Running and speed marches continued in the training program.

Two days prior to the loading, vehicles were waterproofed and spotted. Trucks were loaded with rations, ammunition and equipment, for once aboard they were to remain aboard, following the divisional problem, until the actual landing. Vehicles were assembled in the vicinity of Baia, Nissida and Pozzuoli and were put aboard one day prior to the loading of the troops.

On 15 January, a division formation was held for the purpose of presenting awards to personnel who had distinguished themselves by valor and devotion to duty. Troops passed in review before the Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division, who made an address relating to the imminent conflict. Commending the troops for their past achievements he emphasized that the way home lead through all of the Axis capitals.

From 16 to 18 January 1944, the Regiment participated with other division forces in the full scale rehearsal

known as the "Webfoot" play exercise carried out on the beaches south of Salerno. It followed as closely as possible the routine for the actual landings to follow. Because of many naval deficiencies in landing the troops, faulty command arrangements, and an extremely rough sea, the problem could not be carried through to completion, and many losses were incurred, especially among DUKWS carrying field artillery, 105mm howitzers. The conduct of the exercise was a very important part of the training program and, as proved later, was extremely beneficial to the Navy personnel, who took full advantage of the exercise to perfect their technique and correct all basic defects.

The troops of the Regiment returned to Piano di Quarto by land in a fleet of trucks assembled for that purpose. The next day, 19 January, preparations were made for breaking camp. Pyramidal tents were taken down, barracks bags assembled for storage and all of the equipment that the troops were to take with them was carefully checked. On 20 January, personnel were loaded at Baia on LSTs while LCIs were loaded at Pozzuoli. Some LCTs and a few LSTs were loaded at Nissida. Rear echelon units that remained behind completed policing of the bivouac areas.

PLANS FOR ANZIO-NETTUNO LANDING

While the Regiment was in bivouac at Baja e Latina and trained arduously in the vicinity of Piano di Quarto, plans were finally decided upon by higher headquarters for the "behind-the-lines" landing to take place shortly after 20 January 1944.

During the latter part of November and the month of December Allied forces had battered at the stubborn defenses hinged on the abbey of Monte Cassino without succeeding in effecting a penetration. Cold, rainy weather, coupled with high winds, had prevented effective employment of air forces and reduced activity on the front line to a minimum of patrolling. With the accumulation of necessary stocks of war materiel and the prospect of more favorable weather, the American Fifth Army planned to end the stalemate by an "end run" and continue the advance northward by an attack by land, sea and air.

The amphibious landing planned for the VI American Corps was designed to secure a beachhead about twenty-five miles due south of Rome, around Anzio and Nettuno, seize the high ground of Colle Laziale, cut Highways 6 and 7, the routes of communication and supply of the German Tenth Army, and trap enemy forces holding up the allies before Cassino. Major General John P. Lucas, commanding VI Corps, had at his disposal for the landing, the Third Infantry Division (Reinforced), the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, the 1st, 3rd and 4th Ranger Battalions, the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the First British Division and some British Commandos. Other forces were to eventually reinforce the beachhead.

Plans for the landing called for the American Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) and one brigade of the British First Division to land on the beaches north and south of Nettuno, Italy, with the remaining elements of the British First Division held in floating reserve. The Third Infantry Division was to land on "X-ray" beaches south of Nettuno while the British First Division was to land on "Peter" beaches north of Anzio (see Map No. 28).

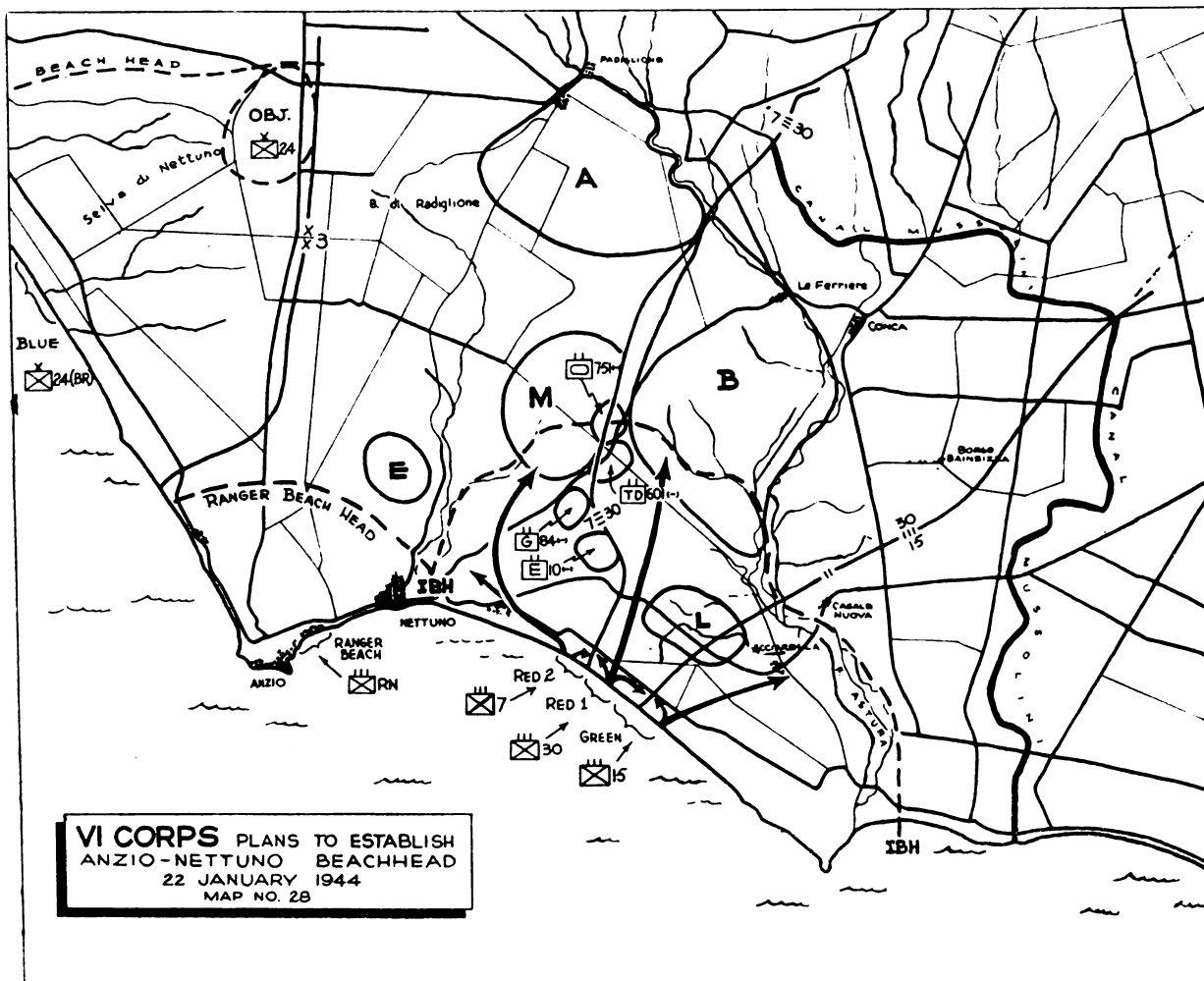
The mission of the Third Infantry Division was to land, destroy enemy beach defenses and capture an initial beachhead extending generally to the line of the Canale Mussolini and its northwest branch. The division's left boundary was the main highway between Anzio and



Top: Left to right, Pvt. Abraham Nadler and Sgt. Bernard Nadler, brothers serving with Co. "A", check their light mortar before loading on landing craft for the "Webfoot" play exercise. Bottom: Chaplain (Capt.) Delmar Dyreson leads a song with his accordion in the Baia area on 16 January 1944.

Albano. The assault plan called for landing of assault battalions of all three regiments simultaneously, as well as a battalion of Rangers just east of Anzio. The Rangers to be tactically attached to the division as soon as contact was to be physically established ashore. The mission of the beach assault battalions was to clear the immediate beach area of enemy defense and enable the follow-up battalions to land and pass through toward the regimental objectives. The order of landing was to be the 7th, 30th and 15th Infantry Regiments from left to right and the assault battalions were the 1st Battalion, 7th Infantry, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry, and the

30th Infantry were to advance to the northwest, north and northeast and clear and occupy the beach-head in the division sector. The 15th Infantry, on the 30th's right, was to relieve elements of the 3rd Reconnaissance Troop on crossings over the Canale Mussolini, protect the right flank of the division and be prepared with remaining forces to pass to the west behind the 30th and 7th Infantry and assist the Rangers in capturing Nettuno. Elements of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and 751st Tank Battalion, were attached to the regiments, to be loaded on LCTs and landed before daylight. It was believed vital to have powerful support



3rd Battalion, 15th Infantry. The assault battalions had objectively trained to attack and destroy pillboxes, fortifications and coast defense weapons, to cross beach wire and mine fields. The beach assault battalions were to be loaded on LSTs and to disembark and land in LCVs, taking nothing but foot elements ashore. The Third Reconnaissance Troop and elements of the Third Provisional Reconnaissance Troop (MTD) were to land with the assault battalion on the right, proceed to crossings over the Canale Mussolini as far north as Bridge 5, blow the bridges and hold the crossings with light forces until relieved by the 15th Infantry.

Following the assault battalions, the other two battalions of each regiment were to be landed in column from LCIs. These follow-up battalions of the 7th and

and anti-tank weapons ashore before the enemy could stage a counter-attack with armored support. The 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion was likewise to land elements from LCTs prior to daylight and provide anti-aircraft protection for the beach pending arrival of corps anti-aircraft artillery units, after which the 441st Battalion would resume its normal role of anti-aircraft protection for division artillery positions.

Naval gunfire support from two light cruisers and four destroyers was to be available to the division for the operation. Shore fire control parties were provided for each regiment and a naval liaison officer was attached to division artillery to provide naval gunfire support as long as it could be used effectively. Alternate channels of communication were set up to assure good communication

in any probable contingency. The navy was prepared to fire a preparation in case enemy shore defenses opened on our forces prior to the actual landing, however the preparation was cancelled during the operation in favor of obtaining surprise. Two rocket boats were to accompany the convoy however and fire rocket barrages on the division's beaches at H-10 minutes.

Rearranged air photo and armed reconnaissance flights were scheduled by the XII Air Support Command to cover the beachhead and adjacent areas on D-day and some attack aviation was to be available on call for close support of the division. Air liaison sets with each regiment and with division headquarters, under control of the division air liaison officer, were provided. The system, which was used successfully in Sicily, of launching the division's own artillery cubs from a flight deck on an LST was also planned for the operation. Originally the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (Reinforced) was to drop a parachute task force thirty-five minutes before H-hour, about eight miles north of Anzio, but that mission was cancelled and the parachute regiment was scheduled to follow the Third Infantry Division landing, in LCIs, as Corps troops.

DESCRIPTION OF LANDING BEACH

The X-Ray beach, arbitrarily divided into two equal beaches, is 2860 yards in length and from ten to twenty-five yards in width. From information obtained it appeared to be entirely satisfactory for personnel, with possible exits for armored vehicles. The entire beach was suitable for LCVPs with probable places for LCTs and LCIs to beach; however, it was believed that pontoons would be required for the LSTs. The sand appeared to be rough. Immediately to the rear of the beach proper a sand dune formation, interspersed with loose boulders and rocky out-crops (possibly lava) rose gradually in some places, and rather abruptly in others, for two hundred fifty yards, to a low plateau at road level. The terrain lying between the sand dune formation and the metalled two-way road, five hundred yards in rear of and paralleling the coast was flat. The number of existing trails indicated that the ground was firm. The topography of the land did not permit rapid drainage there and the naval approach to the beach was not entirely satisfactory. A sand bar about one hundred fifty yards off shore reached the entire length of the beach with the exception of a gap of some four hundred yards, located approximately in the center of the beach. It was thought the weather might cause considerable shifting of the bar but a minimum of six feet of water over the bar was

expected. Inside the outer bar the approach was unobstructed up to a point about fifty yards from the beach where another bar reached the entire length of the beach. The water depth over the inner bar was about two feet and did not deepen inshore of the bar. The composition of the sea bottom was not confirmed but was believed to be firm. The beach was exposed to both the south and west.

Conclusions drawn from the study were that the beaches would be difficult to locate accurately at night, that an on-shore wind would make landing operations hazardous and that there was a definite, or strong possibility, that the inner bar, lying fifty yards off shore, would not allow the passage of landing craft beyond that point. Information concerning the depth of water inside the bar indicated the possibility of one hundred fifty feet of wading toward the beach in water knee-high and in some instances chest-high. The outer sand bar would not permit passage of LSTs at night though gaps might be found in daylight and passage permitted. Pontoons would still be needed, however, because of the poor gradient. On either side of the beaches the sea bottom was rocky and dangerous for landing craft. It was known that adverse weather would cause difficulties in motor movement off the road-net over the plateau in rear of the beach.

SEVENTH INFANTRY IS READY TO MAKE ITS THIRD AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT IN WORLD WAR II

D-Day was set for 22 January 1944 and 0200 was set as the time of H-hour. The Seventh United States Infantry was ready for its third amphibious assault against a hostile shore in this war. For the "Shingle" operation there were many new "Cotton Balers" in the forward line of the rifle companies that were to make the assaults, but the commanding staffs were practically the same as those that operated in Sicily and Southern Italy. Colonel Harry B. Sherman, assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, still directed operations and still had Lieutenant Colonels Frank M. Izenour and Everett W. Duvall of the famous Izenour-Duvall-Heintges trio of commanders. At the close of the Southern Italy or Naples-Foggia Campaign Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges was absent sick and returned too late to assume his old command for the "Shingle" operation. Major William B. Rosson, former S-3, was to lead the Third Battalion. Great changes were to be made in the personnel of the "7th Light Foot" Infantry in the days that lay ahead.

CHAPTER II

The Landing South of Nettuno, Italy

22 JANUARY 1944

Late in the afternoon of 21 January 1944 the invasion craft bearing the amphibious, web-footed, "Cotton Balermen" set sail from the ports of Naples with the entire invasion convoy of VI Corps. While at sea the weather for D-day was announced by radio from Algiers. The troops could expect a light wind, no sea swell and a light haze with visibility of six miles diminishing to one mile by morning. Air reconnaissance by the XII Air Support Command reported that the only craft to be expected between Gaeta and the mouth of the Tiber River would be small fishing craft.

On 22 January 1944 with a calm sea and a light wind in their favor the "Shingle" assault waves hit the beaches on schedule at 0200. The actual landing was accomplished with great ease and was the easiest one participated in by the "Cotton Balermen" during this war though some mines were encountered and the Regiment suffered some casualties.

Had it not been for the rocket barrages which were fired ten minutes before H-hour, the enemy would have been caught wholly by surprise. However, as it was, the Germans had very few troops on hand to oppose a land-

ing in the Anzio-Nettuno area and the operation went off about like a rehearsal.

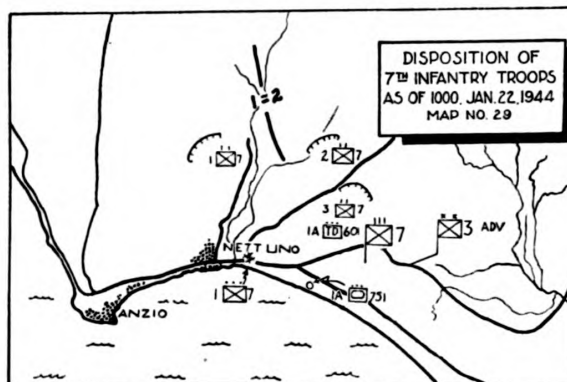
The first wave of the Seventh Infantry, consisting of First Battalion troops, landed without much difficulty at Red Beach 2 about three miles south of Nettuno. The Red Battalion troops cleared the beach of defenses and advanced on for objective "E". At 0240 the Second Battalion troops hit the beach and twenty minutes later the Third Battalion troops followed.

Casualties on D-day for the Third Infantry Division included twelve killed in action and fifty-six wounded in action, a very small number when compared to other operations. Surprise of the operation kept the figures down. Of the twelve killed in action eight were from anti-personnel mines, one from drowning and three from gunshot wounds.¹ Most of the Third Division casualties were suffered by the Seventh Infantry. A platoon of Company "C" sustained a boat accident while unloading. Also troops of the Red Battalion and later some of the Blue Battalion encountered a mine field. Ten of the twelve dead were "Cotton Balermen." The Regiment had a total of ten seriously wounded and nineteen lightly wounded that day.

Pushing forward the troops secured the initial beach-head by 0800 within their zone of action and captured the assigned objectives against very light resistance. The Red Battalion captured thirty enemy on objective "E". A patrol from Company "A" contacted the Rangers in Nettuno while the First Battalion established road blocks and put out mines. The Second Battalion established a strong defensive position on objective E-1 with particular emphasis to the north and northwest defending against a possible mechanized counter-attack. Aggressive combat patrols to the front brought in sixteen prisoners of war while a strong reconnaissance patrol went to objective "D". The Third Battalion occupied objective E-2 and

cations. Some enemy aircraft appeared over the area with one falling into the Third Battalion area. The pilot was killed.

At 1800 the Blue Battalion troops began moving north to an area southwest of Casale Torre Di Padiglione and thirty minutes later the White Battalion troops moved for Objective "D". Blue closed in on its new position at 2315 while the White forces closed in on objective "D" at 0400, 23 January. Both battalions organized strong defensive positions to counter any enemy attacks. The White Battalion contacted the British 24th Brigade on the left. At 2000 the Red Battalion moved to reserve positions. The Regiment had estab-



lished its positions according to plan. During the night three friendly vehicles struck mines that had been laid by our own troops.

Early 23 January the enemy had observation planes over the beachhead and in early afternoon enemy artillery coming from the direction of Cassino began to fall just north of the Third Battalion positions. In early afternoon a Second Battalion patrol had a skirmish with a German tank and fifteen enemy. Two casualties were suffered but the engagement was won when the tank and enemy withdrew. Late in the afternoon the Seventh Infantry, less the Third Battalion, reverted to division reserve. During the night the first two battalions moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of the Tre Cancelli road junction. One platoon of Anti-Tank Company and one platoon of Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, remained attached to the Third Battalion.

The other regiments of the division were as successful as the Seventh Infantry in obtaining their objectives on D-Day and the following day. The Third Reconnaissance Troop and the Third Reconnaissance Troop (MTD) reached and prepared for blowing all bridges along Canale Mussolini from the sea to bridge 7. Bridges 1, 3, 4, and 5 were blown. Guards were placed on all bridges. The Rangers on the left of the Regiment and the British brigade on the extreme left had also been successful in reaching their objectives.

Though the enemy had only one under-strength battalion of inferior troops on beach watching duty to oppose the Third Division landing, his reaction to the landing was swift and every effort was made to rush troops to the area to meet the emergency which threatened the safety of the Tenth Army, Rome and its important airfields. Aided by bad weather which interfered with the bombing of his communication lines, the enemy was able, with amazing rapidity, to move troops into the line. Elements of the Herman Goering Division which was spread from Littoria to Frosinone were the first



Four of ten "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives on 22 January 1944. Top row, l. to r., Pfc Fred W. Cooley, Co. "B", and Pfc LeRoy N. Nelsen, Co. "C". Bottom row, l. to r., Pfc Walter F. Rooney and Pfc Andrew J. Yusko, both of Co. "B".

sent contact patrols to the other battalions, the Rangers, parachute infantry troops and the 30th Infantry.

The armor of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, landed within a short time after the foot troops. Unable to follow the foot troops initially because of the muddy terrain strewn with mine fields, the armor took up positions close to the beach. Some became mired in the mud and blocked the roads. It was necessary to get bulldozers and tank dozers to extricate them. Anti-Tank Company debarked at 0420 while Cannon Company did not land until in the afternoon.

As the troops pushed steadily inland the XII Air Support Command provided cover and the 15th Strategic Air Force struck at German rail and road communi-

¹ Surgeon's Report Section V Report of Operations Hq. 3d Inf. Div. 22-31 Jan. 1944.

enemy elements encountered after D-day on the Third Infantry Division's front. During the first two days following D-day, reconnaissance, anti-aircraft and engineer battalions of the Herman Goering Division put in an appearance, followed by Panzer Grenadier Regiments



KILLED IN ACTION
Pfc Albert K. Schryver, of Co.
"C", on 23 January 1944.

1 and 2 and the Herman Goering Armored Regiment, the latter fighting as infantry in some cases. The enemy drew motorized and reconnaissance battalions from the Cassino or southern front, troops from northern Italy, from the Balkans and from France to oppose the beachhead forces. Every small element that could be jarred loose was moved rapidly to the area of the beachhead to stave off a real breakthrough.

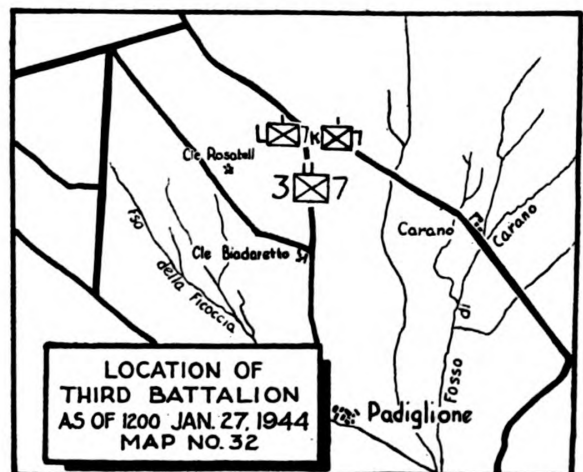
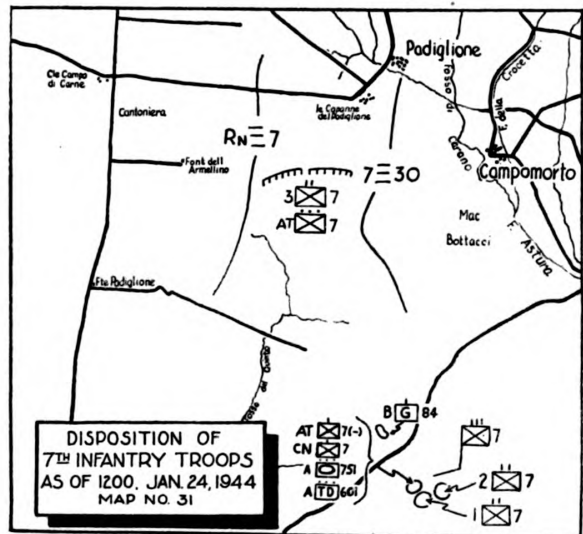
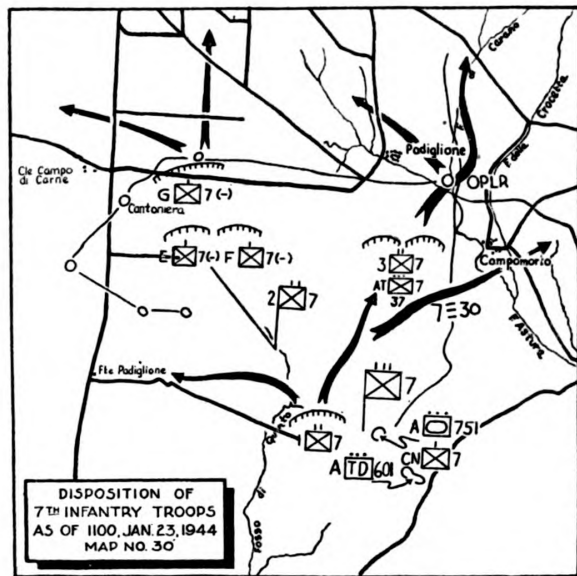
The first elements to arrive were successful in retaking some of the bridges over the Canale Mussolini on 23 January. Enemy crossed the Canal at Bridges 2, 5, 6 and 7 with strong combat patrols supported by tanks. During the evening Third Division forces on the right of the Seventh Infantry began attacking these enemy bridgeheads which were cleared on the following day. The enemy started to harass the beachhead forces with strong combat patrols, frequent strafing and bombing raids in the beach area. Defensive positions were built by the enemy around houses south and west of Cisterna di Littoria.

On 24 January the Third Battalion held its position and conducted intensive patrols. One patrol went in search of two enemy artillery pieces, which had been reported, and found them destroyed. Contact patrols were maintained with the 30th Infantry at regular intervals day and night. The contact point was in the vicinity of Campomorto. One patrol from Company "L" had a sharp fight with an enemy patrol about eight hundred yards north of Padiglione and captured one prisoner. About fifty enemy appeared one thousand yards to the battalion's front. Mortar fire was directed on the enemy.

LIMITED ATTACKS OF 25-28 JANUARY

On 25 January the Third Infantry Division put on an attack. While the Fourth Ranger Battalion and the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, advanced and occupied defensive positions, the First Battalion, 30th Infantry, the Second Battalion, 15th Infantry, and the 504th Parachute Regiment attacked on the right. Heavy resistance was encountered by the battalions from the 30th and 15th Infantries about a mile and a half north of the Canale Mussolini.

The Blue Battalion of the Seventh Infantry advanced at dawn on the 25th about one thousand yards and occupied its objectives against only light artillery fire. While on outpost, near Carano, Private First Class Milo V. Bliss of Company "K" observed the approach of an armored half-track vehicle about three hundred yards from his position. In order to be certain of a direct hit, he left his covered position and moved twenty-five yards across open, flat terrain to the edge of the road, where he was exposed to machine gun and machine pistol fire which barely missed him. Just as the vehicle came within ten yards of him, Private First Class Bliss fired his rocket



gun from a standing position and registered a direct hit which halted the vehicle and seriously wounded the driver. As a result, other men were able to close in and destroy the enemy personnel who had dismounted from the vehicle. In subsequent action Private First Class Bliss was killed.²

As the left flank of the 30th Infantry was held up by the enemy, the Third Battalion was ordered to send one reinforced company to the assistance of the Friscan Battalion to bring more fire on the enemy.[†] Company "K" received the assignment and advanced early in the afternoon. In the vicinity of Torre di Padiglione, Company "K" dug in and sent a strong patrol to maneuver behind the Germans who were holding up the Friscan Battalion. Major Rosson and the S-3 of the 30th Infantry decided that the patrol was to make an attack in conjunction with Company "L" 30th Infantry at 1830 for the Pte Della Croceta road junction. The platoon of Company "K" succeeded in reaching the road junction where it encountered extremely heavy small arms resistance supported by tank and flagwagon fire. The fire-fight lasted throughout the night. Meanwhile a contact patrol to the 30th Infantry Command Post found out that authorities there had no information of the battle in progress at the road junction. Later a telephone conversation, at 2000, between the two regimental command posts revealed that the 30th Infantry still had no information in regard to the fight. Due to poor radio reception little communication was maintained with the platoon during the night. Early the next morning, Company "K" launched an attack which extricated its platoon and seized the road junction. One enemy tank and a half-track were knocked out and two enemy taken prisoners. At 0945, 26 January, the road junction was turned over to Company "L", 30th Infantry.

An enemy patrol approached and attacked a Company "K" outpost the night of 26 January. Private First Class John R. Harrington singlehandedly forced back the patrol which had opened up with intense machine gun

and rifle fire. He exposed himself by stepping out into the open but fired his rifle with such rapidity and accuracy that he killed one and wounded another of the enemy causing the remainder to withdraw.³

At 0300, 27 January, the Third Battalion was ordered to attack and take Spaccassassi and the road southeast to Carano. The battalion, less Company "K", crossed the line of departure at 0530. Company "L" ran into a strong enemy outpost at Spaccassassi and after a long fight occupied the objective at 1030. Technical Sergeant Robert W. Aemmer, who led his platoon in an assault on two enemy machine guns performed gallantly. The enemy guns were destroyed, five enemy killed and two captured.⁴ The Third Battalion came under heavy enemy artillery fire during the afternoon. Private First Class Anton V. Costa rescued a wounded comrade during the height of the bombardment.⁴

The Regiment, less the Third Battalion which came under Third Division control and remained in place, moved to a new area in the vicinity of Cle S Antonio. The Second Battalion then moved to Borgo Montello and established a semi-defensive and semi-assembly area. The First Battalion moved to Road Junction 47 and Company "G" was detailed to the 15th Infantry to guard bridges. After making its move "George" Company became involved in a fight. Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Domingo, Jr., located an enemy machine gun which was delivering a large volume of fire on his men. Jumping to his feet Staff Sergeant Domingo fired his "Tommy Gun" and advanced on the enemy position shouting for his men to follow. He was fatally wounded during the fight but his own fire enabled his men to reach a covered position from which they gave effective fire and forced the enemy to withdraw.⁵ The following morning Company "G" rejoined its battalion.[‡]

The night of 28-29 January, the Third Battalion was relieved by the 509th Parachute Battalion and assembled northwest of Cle Campomorto.

CHAPTER III

Attacks and Counter-Attacks

30 JANUARY—5 FEBRUARY 1944

On 26 January, the British on the extreme left repulsed a strong counter-attack by two hundred fifty Germans supported by twenty-five tanks. In the action on the right the 15th and 30th Infantries failed to advance but held their ground. A battalion of the 504th Parachute Regiment had been attacked during the night and withdrew from Borgo Piave.

The Anzio-Nettuno landings of 22 January were very successful and alarmed the enemy, who feared that forces confronting the American 5th Army would be attacked from their rear or a drive on Rome was in the offing. Neither developed because the landing force was insufficient in size. Field Marshal Albert Kesselring who commanded the enemy forces in Italy soon discovered that the landing force was only a "half measure" and gave orders to wipe it out. The Germans would have succeeded in doing that had not the initial forces fought with great stubbornness and had they not been reinforced. It is believed by the writer that Major General John P. Lucas, commanding the VI Corps, gave the correct order when he instructed the landing forces to dig in during the morning of 22 January and prepare defensive positions. The troops could have fanned out

into the Albano hills and probably even reached Rome twenty miles away, but it would have been their doom as the Germans were then marshaling forces to attack

² GO No. 76, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Apr. '44. Pfc Bliss was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³ GO No. 131, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 June '44. Pfc Harrington was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴ GOs No. 34 & 63, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 Mar. & 7 Apr. '44. T/Sgt. Aemmer & Pfc Costa were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵ GO No. 76, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Apr. '44. S/Sgt. Domingo was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

[†] The 30th Infantry was stationed for a long period at the Presidio, San Francisco, California, and was often referred to as San Francisco's own. The 30th Regiment or its units are often referred to as "Friscan".

[‡] Hereafter in the text the units of the 7th Infantry may often be referred to by their code names. The change in designation should not confuse the reader if he will remember that the first letter of the code name corresponds to the letter designation of the rifle or heavy weapons units; i.e., "Able" equals Company "A", "Baker" equals Company "B", "Charlie" equals Company "C", "Dog" equals Company "D", "Easy" equals Company "E", "George" equals Company "G", etc.

them. The result of the strategy employed by the commanders of both sides and the great struggles fought was that the Anzio Beachhead remained a beachhead for four months.

On the third anniversary of the Anzio-Nettuno landings Daniel De Luce of the Associated Press interviewed Field Marshall Albert Kesselring, former commander-in-chief of all German forces in Italy, in a special prison camp near Marburg, Germany. The field marshal made the following statements concerning the bloody battles fought on the Anzio Beachhead and also of the strategy employed:

Anzio was the enemy's epic of bravery, just as ruined Cassino was ours. During the whole battle of four months, I had losses of 40,000 men. Of these, 5,000 were killed.

I held the hills and you were exposed on the low plain by the sea, so your sacrifices were greater. But I can say this, if you had never pitted your divisions in the Mediterranean, as at Anzio-Nettuno, you would not have won a victory in the west. You profited by your experiences. We did not.

It would have been the Anglo-Americans' doom to over-extend themselves. I was quickly gathering my first five divisions to attack. The landing force was initially weak, only a division or so of Infantry, and without armor. It was a half-measure as an offensive that was your basic error.

I knew something was coming but did not know where. Spezia, Genoa, Gaeta. It could have been any of these. The more I looked at a map, the more danger spots I saw. But my commanders said, "Der Kessel has made our men alarm weary." So I gave no alarm that night.

By 10 o'clock in the morning I knew the true venture was a feint and that it was of such a modest size that I might proceed to wipe it out. I had strong artillery—altogether 500 guns. I had two 280mm railway guns, two more that were 240mm, and a number of 210mm batteries.

The flanks were swamp fields but the main road from Campoleone to Anzio offered the possibility for armor. To the right I had the Fourth Parachute and the 67th Infantry Divisions, and in the center and left, the Infantry Lehr Division, the Third Panzer Grenadiers, the 362nd Infantry, the 714th motorized elements of the Hermann Goering Panzers, and some Italian battalions. I had the 29th Panzer Grenadiers and the 26th Panzers as reserve behind the center.

Rain made the ground too muddy for effective panzer operations. The troops of the Infantry Lehr Division, not up to standard because not accustomed to battle conditions, lost their poise, broke and fell back when they encountered very stubborn enemy resistance. The excellent coordination of the enemy air force and naval gunfire with the forces on land created a decisive effect.

We felt we were opposed by equals. Our enemy was of the highest quality. (#)

An official 5th Army publication discloses the aims of the Anzio-Nettuno landings and tells of the speed with which the enemy acted to check the Allied forces:

The enemy had reacted quickly to the landing and was becoming stronger every day. The success of the landing operation and the surprise that attended it gave rise to much unfounded optimism on the part of people who were not fully informed as to just what the situation was. It must be remembered that our landing was a "calculated risk". It took into consideration the known factors, and it was anticipated that the enemy would weaken his southern front in bringing troops up to oppose the beachhead.

Although the German force opposed to our initial landing was small, the enemy reacted quickly by rushing troops from all directions to meet the grave emergency which confronted him. By the end of D-Day (22 January) he had twenty thousand men to oppose our thirty-six thousand. Our superiority was not great enough to warrant a hasty, extensive advance inland before we had secured a suitable beachhead. By the end of D-plus-3, his number had risen to forty-one thousand while we had only fifty-six thousand and the enemy buildup was steadily increasing.

With amazing rapidity, the Germans brought in one division from France, one from the Balkans, three from Northern Italy, two from the Eighth Army front, but only a division and a half from the Fifth Army Southern front.

Fifth Army's main front operation during December and January had been designed to maneuver the enemy into a position that would permit our forces to cross the Rapido River and

break into the Liri Valley before the Anzio landings. Bad weather and insufficient forces prevented the accomplishment of this operation, but our continued offensive effort in the Rapido area caused the Germans to reinforce his troops opposing our Anzio landings by bringing divisions from other areas rather than from the main Fifth Army front. This was a tribute to the Fifth Army's offensive spirit. However, the retention of so many German divisions on our main front slowed down the Fifth Army's mid winter advance toward the beachhead.⁸

The VI Corps, after establishing its beachhead and reinforcing the initial forces, planned to resume the offensive and attack to the north with the mission of seizing the Albano-Velletri area and continuing the attack to disrupt the enemy's communications to the Fifth Army front. The First British Division in conjunction with the First Armored Division was to attack along the axis of the Anzio-Albano road and seize the high ground in the vicinity of Albano. On the right, the Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) was to advance to seize Cisterna di Littoria then prepare to continue the advance to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Cori and Velletri. The time was set for early 30 January.

The Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) planned to send out two Ranger Battalions, the First and Third, followed by the Fourth, one hour before H-hour to infiltrate into Cisterna di Littoria and seize the place. At H-hour the 7th and 15th Infantries were to jump off in the attack. The Seventh Infantry was assigned objective "A", northwest of the town on Highway 7, then was to be prepared to attack Cisterna di Littoria from the northwest or to advance in the other direction on Velletri. The 15th Infantry on the right of the Seventh was to advance on objectives southeast of the town on the highway. The 509th Parachute Battalion was to protect the flank on the left of the Seventh Infantry while the 504th Parachute Regiment was assigned objectives on the division's right and the mission of holding the enemy south-east of the Canale Mussolini. The 30th Infantry was to be in reserve. H-hour was set for 0200, 30 January.

The G-2 estimate of the situation of 29 January 1944, was quite inaccurate and did not anticipate the great struggles that lay ahead. Accurate information of German dispositions and movements was lacking. Due to the speed and secrecy of the enemy in bringing up reinforcements accurate estimation was not made. Because of the very light opposition during the first few days it was not thought that the enemy could mass enough forces to halt a major attack at that time. The estimate as given to the troops was as follows:

The enemy at present disposes Herman Goering Division on our right flank and front, and scattering of units from various larger formations, probably now under command of Third Panzer Grenadiers Division, on our left front. The enemy's attitude on our front is entirely defensive. He has maintained a rather loose and poorly organized line of outposts well to the east of the Canale Mussolini, south and southwest of Cisterna di Littoria, and south of the railroad embankment which runs northwest from Cisterna. His patrolling has not been aggressive, as it has seldom penetrated to the point of seriously harassing our outposts; rather, our patrols have normally contacted German security patrols near or within his own outpost line. His outpost line of resistance, or defensive line backing up his

Because Major General Lucas was later replaced by Major General Lucian K. Truscott as commanding general of the beachhead forces, it has been presumed by many that he was replaced because he had exercised too much caution on the first days after the landings. The writer does not know why he was replaced but feels that he exercised the correct strategy because his forces were insufficient for a drive inland. The commander of the German forces believed that the Allies had used the best strategy in consolidating their positions and stated that had not the Allies landed at Anzio-Nettuno and other places in the Mediterranean they would not have won victory in the west.

New Britain Herald, New Britain, Connecticut, 22 January 1947, p. 15.

⁸ "Road to Rome", Hqs. Fifth Army, pp 27-30.

outposts. is believed to lie along the railway track itself, and may well be tied in with slight terrain eminences which begin to appear to the northeast and north of Cisterna. His main line of resistance will undoubtedly be found on true high ground to the east and west of Velletri. Since we now effectively interdict Highway 7 with artillery fire, the Germans would hardly interpose a main line of resistance on less favorable ground this side of Velletri, especially in view of the fact that he must use all available time to complete and man a system of defensive works if he is to keep us off the Colli Laziali and Highway 6.

The enemy's immediate situation with respect to tanks and artillery is not too good, and there have been many evidences that he is losing this precious materiel at a much higher rate than we; nevertheless, he may be expected to support his ground defenses at any point by counter-attacks by small units including two or three tanks, and to employ light and heavy anti-tank guns, self-propelled artillery and dual-purpose weapons on any or all the useable roads now under his control. The enemy's definite superiority of observation must not be overlooked, and this superiority will become more marked as we approach the Cori-Velletri areas.

The enemy's position regarding reserves is difficult to assess. His use of the 356th Fusilier (Rcn.) Battalion, 120th Reconnaissance Battalion and 26th Reconnaissance Battalion in the immediate battle zone indicates that some or all of the 356th Division (L. of C.), 26th and 29th Panzer Grenadier Divisions may be earmarked for the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead. To date, however, the enemy has fed units into the line piecemeal

the holder to block traffic both on Highway 6 and Highway 7. Between Colli Laziali and Monti Lepini is a gap about six miles wide. The only serious terrain obstacles, besides the hill masses themselves, are Lago di Nemi and Lago Albano, occupying extinct craters in the southwestern portion of Colli Laziali. There should be fairly good standing for vehicles anywhere above Cisterna after a short dry spell. The road net north of Cisterna is not nearly so dense as on the flat ground to the south, the terrain being broken by many stream lines, but there are at least two roads which run through the gap between the two hill-masses.

The quality of troops available to the enemy must be considered in discussing his capabilities. While there is no reason to minimize the ability of his higher commanders, and the high level of training and discipline which are still to be found at battalion and company level, there is evidence that platoon and squad leadership has begun to deteriorate, and at least in the present operation, small enemy groups have not shown the excellent soldiery which we have come to expect of the Germans. For this reason, our own actions, if carried through with particular vigor and firmness, whether in attacking or defending, may enable us to attain success which would not have been possible against old-type, all-German formations. This same fact also bears on the enemy's ability to counter-attack strongly enough to drive us into the sea: to date his containing actions and close-in defensive build-up have not been particularly successful, and he may be compelled to feed in forces previously intended as a counter-attack force, merely to delay our breakthrough into his main positions.

To sum up, it does not now seem probable that the enemy will soon deliver a major counter-attack involving units of division size; on the other hand, the enemy will probably resort to delaying action coupled with small-scale counter-attacks in an effort to grind us to a standstill, as on the Cassino Line. If he fails to do this on Colli Laziali, he will probably evacuate the Cassino position, fight a rear-guard action across the Tiber and start over again on a consolidated line across the peninsula.⁷

TWO RANGER BATTALIONS ARE ANNIHILATED

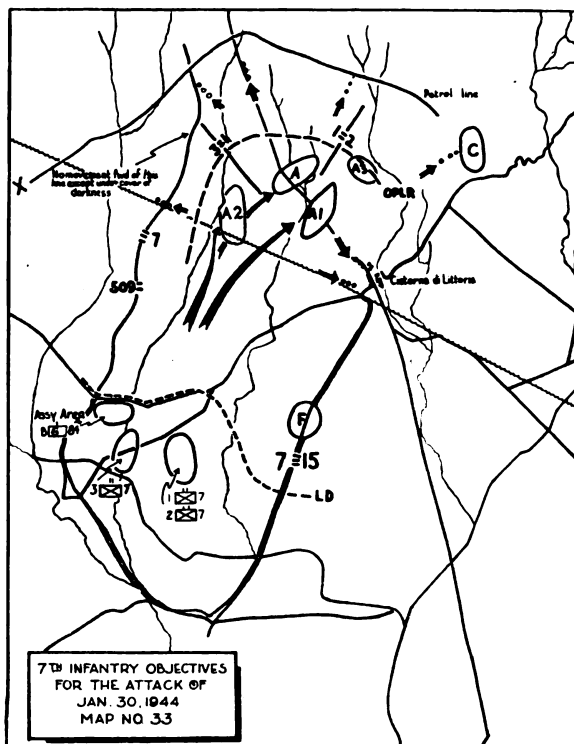
At 0100, one hour before H-hour on 30 January 1944, the First and Third Ranger Battalions crossed their line of departure and started moving on their objective, Cisterna di Littoria. Initially no opposition was encountered and it was thought that matters would go well. At 0200, H-hour, the 7th and 15th Infantry and the Fourth Ranger Battalion crossed the line of departure and advanced on their objectives.

The enemy, anticipating an attack on Cisterna di Littoria, had the preceding night, unknown to the Americans, reinforced his numbers in and around the town. The infiltration of the two Ranger battalions became known to the enemy and he allowed it to continue during the hours of darkness until practically the entire force had entered the triangular area just south of Cisterna di Littoria with the lead elements in the town itself. The zone had been completely surrounded by the Germans and commanded by their weapons. Suddenly concentrated hostile fire was delivered on the exposed Rangers who were taken completely by surprise. Those outside the town were without cover, concealment or even escape, for the terrain, typical of the entire beachhead, was flat, barren, farmland. The Germans lost no time in closing the trap they had so beautifully laid and in the course of eleven hours or less proceeded to annihilate the hapless Rangers.

Communication with the two leading Ranger Battalions was non-existent for more than seven hours after their jump-off. The commanding officer of the Ranger force, Colonel William O. Darby, and the commanding general of the Third Infantry Division, Major General Lucian K. Truscott, were then uninformed of the true situation.

At 0235 machine gun and machine pistol fire were heard but it was not certain if it came from in front of the Rangers or the First Battalion, 15th Infantry.

⁷ Annex 2, FO 3, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 29 Jan. 1944.



as they have arrived, and there is no definite indication that he will depart from this practice by throwing one or more divisions entire against our positions in an organized counter-attack. Even if he were to do so, it is likely that the division's proximity to the line would be discovered by air reconnaissance, prisoner of war or civilian reports before the counter-attack itself could be delivered. He is known to have in immediate reserve an SS Regiment in the Velletri area and probably the bulk of a newly-formed parachute division (4000-5000 troops) north of Velletri; it seems likely, however, that the mission of these units is to prepare and man defenses on the main line of resistance rather than to be used in a counter-attack against the beachhead, as they are now actually occupying the ground where he can be expected to put up his stiffest defense.

Two terrain features dominate the field of battle: the Colli Laziali and the northern peaks of the Monti Lepini. Controlling heights in both cases are roughly three thousand feet, with the Monti Lepini, directly northeast of Cisterna being somewhat higher. Both these features give excellent observation over the Cisterna-Velletri area, and the possession of either would enable

At 0340 Third Division Headquarters received a report from Colonel Darby's headquarters that the Fourth Ranger Battalion was meeting fire from a road junction north of the line of departure. No word had been received from the First and Third Ranger Battalions.

Regular reports were sent to Third Division Headquarters from Colonel Darby's headquarters at 0415, 0450, and 0610. Each time it was reported that the Fourth Rangers were meeting tougher resistance and that there was no news of the First and Third Rangers who, strangely enough, were believed to be doing well.

At 0835 the real situation became known. A radio call from the First and Third Ranger Battalions in the south edge of Cisterna di Littoria was received. The two battalions were completely surrounded. The commanding officer of the Third Rangers had been killed while the commanding officer of the First Rangers was seriously wounded and unable to command. Colonel Darby ordered the Fourth Rangers to drive on to the rescue. The Germans did not intend to lose their prize, however. The Fourth Rangers, already in serious trouble, never reached their comrades. The enemy poured heavy concentrations of automatic fire into the Fourth Rangers from both flanks and they had to fight for their own lives, let alone rescue anyone else. Armor, rushing to the rescue, encountered strong blocks, then maneuvered to

and do what is best. . . . You're there and I'm here, unfortunately, and I can't help you, but whatever happens, God bless you. . . ."

Colonel Darby then spoke to the commanding general of the Third Infantry Division and said, "They came and got them at the last minute. My old sergeant major stayed with the last ten men. It apparently was too much for them."

A few days later, information as to how the Germans destroyed the once proud Ranger battalions was secured from a prisoner of war, a lieutenant of the German 14th Company, Parachute Training Regiment. He stated that the Rangers had gotten into Cisterna di Littoria and that the Germans then counter-attacked down the road from the northeast. He admitted that his company and troops of the Herman Goering Division were present and the troops used were motorized, in addition to having 20mm flak wagons, neblewerfers and anti-tank guns which were employed as Infantry support weapons. The Rangers were forced to withdraw south and southwest. The Germans fanned out on the roads south of Cisterna di Littoria and then cut cross-country on unimproved roads. One segment after another was cut off. The German lieutenant stated that he was present when the American prisoner of war count was taken and that there were nine hundred American Rangers held by the Germans. Actual wounded and killed casualties then were not very heavy. The interrogator expressed skepticism (of the casualty report) and suggested that the Germans fired compressed air grenades from their neblewerfers. The German admitted that the neblewerfers had been fired but said he did not know what type of ammunition had been used.⁸

But eight members of the two assault Ranger battalions escaped from the trap. Some had been killed and wounded but the bulk of the two battalions was forced to surrender to the enemy when the members saw the situation was hopeless.

SEVENTH INFANTRY BECOMES LOCKED IN A BITTER STRUGGLE

While the Ranger battalions were being destroyed, the Seventh Infantry became involved in a fight that was to last four days and be the toughest engagement the "Cotton Balermen" had yet encountered in this war. Initially only one battalion was committed, but by the end of the day, all three had been thrown into the conflict.

The First Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour jumped off at 0200 to infiltrate to its objective northwest of Cisterna di Littoria. The same tactics were used as was planned for the Rangers. Almost immediately the Red troops ran into machine gun fire and were temporarily held up. As Company "A" was being harassed by heavy machine gun fire, Sergeant Lawrence E. Knox voluntarily led his platoon one hundred twenty-five yards, to within fifty yards of an enemy gun in an attempt to knock it out. In a fire fight that lasted one hour, he constantly exposed himself as he ran from man to man deploying them and building an effective base of fire, which finally forced the enemy to withdraw. Just before the enemy gun was silenced, Sergeant Knox suffered wounds about the eye, which subsequently caused its loss.⁹

⁸ Letter Report of the CG 3d Inf. Div. to CG VI Corps entitled "Battle Casualties, 6615 Ranger Force for period 29-30 Jan. 1944," 6 Feb. 1944.

⁹ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug. '44. Sgt. Knox was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



KILLED IN ACTION

Six of 42 "Cotton Balers" who sacrificed their lives on 30 January 1944. (1) Pfc Edward G. Campbell, Co. "C". (2) T/Sgt. James W. Cowling, Co. "C". (3) Pvt. Russell C. Gunsallus, Co. "C". (4) Pfc James V. Viola, Co. "C". (5) 2 Lt. Alvin W. Weakley, Co. "F". (6) Pvt. Robert Lee Weaver, Co. "L".

outflank them, but ran into heavy German artillery fire and minefields. Losses were sustained and the armor never got through. With no help the outcome was inevitable though a battle ensued from early morning till midday.

At 1215 that day Colonel Darby talked by radio with his old sergeant major who was in Cisterna di Littoria with the beleaguered remnants of the once two fine battalions of Rangers. It was the last conversation held with any American in the town and the record of it tells more than anyone can describe.

Sergeant Major: "Nobody is giving up."

Colonel Darby: "Shoot them if they come any closer. . . . Issue some orders but don't let the boys give up. . . . Who's walking in with their hands up? Don't let them do it! Get the officers to shoot. . . . Don't let them do it. . . . Do that before you give up. . . . Get the old men together and lam for it. . . . We're coming through. . . . Hang on to this radio until the last minute. . . . How many men are still with you. . . . Use your head

The Red Battalion pushed on, then became temporarily stalled in the vicinity of the road junction northwest of Cle Pratone at 0400, receiving heavy enemy fire from artillery, mortars, tanks and automatic weapons. Company "B" suffered heavy casualties and became disorganized. Despite the heavy fire, Sergeant William W. Mehl led his light machine gun section from the comparative safety of a ditch to an effective but exposed firing position, in order to engage two enemy machine guns. Although a third of his section became casualties and one of his guns was destroyed, Sergeant Mehl directed such accurate fire that both enemy weapons were silenced. Private Jesse A. Dean and four other men volunteered to relieve pressure preventing reorganization of the company. Despite enemy machine gun fire from a flanking position four hundred yards away that killed his four companions, Private Dean crawled fifty yards more to the crest of a small knoll and took cover in a shell hole. He then spotted four Germans seventy-five yards away putting a machine gun into action and quickly killed them all with accurate fire from his M-1 rifle. Although enemy artillery shells landed close to his position Private Dean continued firing at other enemy positions until he emptied one bandolier and one belt of ammunition. Company "B" succeeded finally in setting up strong defensive positions and repelled an enemy counter-attack.¹⁰

Driving on through artillery fire, the First Battalion reached the thirty-one grid line at about 0500 and became heavily engaged in a machine gun and small arms fight as the enemy prepared to counter-attack.

At that time, Sergeant Robert A. White of Headquarters Company First Battalion acted without orders and crawled fifty yards down a draw in an effort to destroy one of the machine guns which had temporarily halted the advance. Although he was subjected to intense machine gun fire which barely missed him, he nevertheless made his way to a point within thirty yards of the enemy weapon and dispatched the crew with his rifle. The daring action took nearly forty minutes to accomplish and was a major factor in enabling the battalion to advance.¹¹

Captain Kenneth W. Wallace of Company "A", who knocked out an enemy machine gun crew with bursts of fire from his "Tommy Gun", and Technical Sergeant James H. Crawford of Company "D", who mustered a machine gun squad and several riflemen and led them one hundred yards over the flat and open terrain to bolster the battalion's vulnerable flank were two others of the many "Cotton Balers" who performed gallantly that day. They were both wounded in the action.¹²

During the early morning darkness small elements of the First Battalion penetrated the enemy's lines and eventually united. A group of about forty in number which included First Lieutenant Edward V. Busby, Second Lieutenant Charles W. VanScoyoc, First Sergeant Cole L. Miller, Corporal Quenton E. Thomas and Private First Class Dorsey Frazee found itself behind the enemy's lines at dawn, and it was not until the following night that the group, after splitting into two sections, successfully returned to friendly lines. Many narrow escapes were experienced and a total of nine enemy machine gun nests and mortar emplacements had to be eliminated before the members effected their return.

The enemy and the Red Battalion continued to throw everything they had at each other and progress was slow for the "Cotton Balermen" against the strong opposition. The Regimental Commander endeavored to get the armor up to support the attacking battalion and give it added defense against counter-attacks as well as extra power in the attack. Reconnaissance by officers of the 751st Tank Battalion, however, reported it impossible to advance armor over the existing roads and terrain.

To relieve the pressure against the First Battalion, Colonel Sherman committed the Second Battalion and ordered the tanks and tank destroyers to get up behind the troops. The artillery and chemical mortars laid in preparatory barrages, following which, the White Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Everett W. Duvall, attacked at 1045 to the northeast parallel to the Cisterna di Littoria road and headed for Hill 83. The battalion advanced satisfactorily until shortly after noon time when it was hit by a terrific concentration of artillery, and counter-attacked by German Infantry. The White Battalion troops were driven back to the stream where they sought to reorganize and hold.

Sergeant Elbert Hudspeth and Private First Class Paul Anderson, both of Company "H", were two of several soldiers who remained at their posts and covered the withdrawal. Sergeant Hudspeth crawled to a firing position and for fifteen minutes pumped round after round into enemy ranks but seventy yards away. His bold action so distracted the enemy that they were staved off until his comrades improved their positions. Private First Class Anderson remained at his machine gun and for two hours singlehandedly engaged a large group of Germans and silenced one enemy machine gun. Private Lewis O. Lowery, though suffering from five fragment wounds, kept carrying ammunition to the gunners of automatic rifles and machine guns when other bearers were wounded and removed from the fight.¹³

Throughout the remainder of the day the White Battalion received artillery, mortar, small arms and machine gun fire. Casualties were heavy and nearly all cases had to be hand carried to the rear after nightfall.

As the Second Battalion failed to relieve any of the pressure and instead suffered a setback, the fight of the First Battalion carried on into the afternoon with the troops catching it from the front and flanks. The enemy increased his fire from artillery, tanks, self-propelled guns and automatic weapons, inflicting many casualties. At 1705 the Germans launched another counter-attack which was repulsed after a hard fight.

Early in the morning of 30 January the great leader of the First Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour, was seriously wounded but held on throughout the day and maintained control. His executive officer, Lieutenant Colonel James E. Breth, was also wounded. In the evening of that day Major Frank C. Sinsel, the Regimental S-3, and Major Lloyd B. Ramsay, who was sent up from Third Division Headquarters, relieved the two wounded colonels of their duties and had them evacuated to the rear. Captain Jack M. Duncan assumed the duties of S-3.

Company "G" of the 30th Infantry had attacked to the left of the First Battalion at 1515 on 30 January in an attempt to relieve the pressure on the Red Battalion but failed in that mission. At 2000 the Friscan company was over fifteen hundred yards west of the First Battalion's westernmost elements.

With his First Battalion fighting its heart out, his Second Battalion rocked back on its heels and also battling for life, Colonel Sherman had been forced to commit his reserve battalion, the Third, on 30 January and to continue the battle with every unit at his disposal.

¹⁰ GOs No. 161 & 189, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July & 10 Sept. '44. Sgt. Mehl & Pvt. Dean were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹¹ GO No. 106, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 June '44. Sgt. White was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² GOs No. 158 & 206, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July & 2 Oct. '44. Capt. Wallace & T/Sgt. Crawford were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹³ GOs No. 51, 215 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Apr. & 8 Oct. '44 & 9 Aug. '45. Sgt. Hudspeth, Pfc Anderson & Pvt. Lowery were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion, commanded by Major William B. Rosson, attacked for Ponte Rotto Road Junction, at 1645, 30 January, following a half hour artillery and mortar concentration. Withering machine gun fire was encountered from both flanks as the troops advanced. During the advance of the Third Battalion, First Lieutenant Frederick J. Phillips, Private First Class Arthur J. Costa and Private First Class Elton O. Meredith, all of Company "M", helped pave the way for the rifle troops by repairing communications and bringing accurate fire on the enemy and thereby contributed to the destruction of enemy strongpoints.¹⁴

Some enemy of the 356th Reconnaissance Battalion were taken prisoners and gave the information that a counter-attack was to be launched that night from Bridges 12 and 13. Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies reconnoitered forward positions and shortly after dark were moved into them to support the rifle troops.

The Third Battalion captured the road junction, advanced two hundred yards beyond and cleared out two more machine gun nests. Progress was slow but the Blue Battalion troops kept pushing for the objectives near Ponte Rotto. At about 2200 that night Staff Sergeant Warren B. Williams of Company "I" disregarded a painful neck wound and remained standing after others in his platoon took cover. Using his sub-machine gun he shot it out at twenty yards distance with a German soldier armed with a machine pistol and succeeded in wounding the enemy and putting him out of action.¹⁵ At 2305 strong determined resistance was encountered and the Third Battalion was engaged in the toughest night fight it had yet encountered in this conflict. Burning hay stacks illuminated the area and exposed the troops.

Captain Glen E. Rathbun, First Lieutenants Lucius S. Davis, Frederick J. Phillips and John S. Raney, all of Company "M", employed the machine gun and mortar sections of the heavy weapons company so effectively that five machine guns were destroyed and heavy casualties were inflicted on the Germans. First Lieutenant Raney, who was killed in subsequent action, killed two Germans with pistol fire in a close-in engagement.¹⁶

The Third Battalion staged a brilliant fight throughout the night under the leadership of Major William B. Rosson. At 0100 hours when Company "L" was disorganized and temporarily halted by severe machine gun and rifle fire and was silhouetted in the light of several burning haystacks he ran forward and reorganized the two foremost platoons and directed their combined firepower very effectively. The advance was pressed until the assault company was ambushed by a large enemy force. Major Rosson then made a reconnaissance and maneuvered Company "K" so successfully that the enemy ambushing force was flanked and routed and the battalion secured the Regiment's right flank and captured its objectives which included Hill 83.

During the attack of Company "K" at about 0200 hours near Ponte Rotto, sudden and severe machine gun fire from fifteen to twenty-five yards range isolated a squad of eight men and caused several casualties among the rest of the company. While Staff Sergeant Howard L. Patterson led a squad in a flanking maneuver to within twenty-five yards of the enemy, First Lieutenant Clifford G. Gordon rushed the enemy machine guns and destroyed one with a hand grenade. The rapid action resulted in the killing of one three-man machine gun crew. Two enemy armed with machine pistols, and a second machine gun crew, were forced to flee. In subsequent action, Lieutenant Gordon was killed.¹⁷

The Germans had fortified the houses, barns and even the haystacks while their other positions were uniformly dug-in. Captain Frank Petruzel and Technical Sergeant

Garlin M. Connor led assault groups on strongly fortified houses which blocked the advance of Company "K". Four men had been previously wounded by fire from the houses. Taking a bazooka team and two rifle grenadiers with him Technical Sergeant Connor led his group across fifty yards of the exposed terrain and openly directed effective fire on the enemy. Result of the concerted action was that one machine gun and two machine pistols were silenced and the crew of a fourth automatic weapon routed. Company "K" continued its advance.¹⁸

Other members of Company "K" performed gallantly. Private First Class Andy S. Barko, who was killed in subsequent action, and Private First Class Sterling Reno destroyed an enemy half-track motorcycle, containing six Germans, with "Molotov Cocktails" and rocket gun fire. First Lieutenant Paul V. McGhan, the weapons platoon leader effected a reorganization once of the company's left flank and was instrumental in the success of the company. Private First Class James H. Rosloof kept his machine gun in action against the enemy and won numerous fire fights.¹⁹

SERGEANT TRUMAN O. OLSON PERFORMS CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY AND SACRIFICES HIS LIFE

At 0045, 31 January, the Red Battalion was the target for still another counter-attack coming from the north and northeast. The attack was heavier than the preceding one. The enemy used mortar and small arms fire and tried to infiltrate through the "Cotton Baler" positions. The fight was continuous throughout the night with heavy losses sustained by both sides. With no thought of surrender or relaxation against the enemy, the Red Battalion troops lived up to the finest traditions of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. It was kill or be killed and the feats of heroism performed at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty will always be remembered and revered.

Sergeant Truman O. Olson, a light machine gunner of Company "B", elected to sacrifice his life to save his company from annihilation.

That night, following almost sixteen hours of continuous assault on the entrenched enemy positions in the course of which over one-third of Company "B" became casualties, the survivors of the company under the command of First Lieutenant Jon Capron, dug-in behind a horseshoe elevation. This placed Sergeant Olson and his crew with the one available machine gun then in the company, forward of their lines and in an exposed position to bear the brunt of the German attacks. Although he had been fighting without respite since the original jump-off, Sergeant Olson stuck grimly to his post all night while his six-man gun crew was cut down one by one, by the accurate and overwhelming enemy

¹⁴ GOs 34 & 38, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 17 Mar. '44. 1 Lt. Phillips, Pfc Costa & Pfc Meredith were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ GO No. 39, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Mar. '44. S/Sgt. Williams was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁶ GOs No. 101, 118, 125 & 143, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7, 14, 18 & 28 June '44. Capt. Rathbun, 1 Lt. Davis, 1 Lt. Raney (posthumously) were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ GOs No. 101 & 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 June & 3 Sept. '44. 1 Lt. Gordon (posthumously) & S/Sgt. Patterson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁸ GOs No. 38 & 87, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Mar. & 7 May '44. Capt. Petruzel & T/Sgt. Connor were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁹ GOs No. 34, 39, 41 & 76, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10, 20 & 23 Mar. & 20 Apr. '44. 1 Lt. McGhan, Pfc Barko (posthumously), Pfc Reno & Pfc Rosloof were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

fire. Weary from over twenty-four hours of continuous battle and suffering from a leg wound, received during the night engagement, Sergeant Olson manned his gun alone, meeting the full force of an all-out enemy assault by approximately two hundred Infantrymen, supported by mortar and machine gun fire, which the Germans launched at daybreak on the morning of 31 January. After thirty more minutes of fighting, Sergeant Olson was mortally wounded, yet knowing that only his weapon stood between his company and complete destruction, he refused evacuation. For an hour and a half after receiving his second and fatal wound, he continued to fire his machine gun, killing at least twenty of the enemy, wounding many more, and forcing the assaulting Germans to withdraw.

Technical Sergeant John H. Earl brought the Medics to Sergeant Olson and later said: "He had serious shell fragment wounds in his back and left leg and was just about done for when we arrived to evacuate him. His wounds were so severe that he died while being carried to the rear. It is only because he carried on when he knew that his life was slowly ebbing away from his grievous wounds that others of us are alive today."

Corporal Elmer Angel described the carnage wreaked in the area by Sergeant Olson. "Dead enemy were lying everywhere," he said. Sergeant Olson had personally killed at least twenty and wounded many more. He had fired all but fifty rounds of thirteen chests (250 rounds per chest) of machine gun ammunition."

For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, Sergeant Truman O. Olson was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the second to be awarded to a "Cotton Balerman" in this Second World War.²⁰

When First Sergeant John H. Mayo of Company "B" was killed in action, Sergeant Merrill L. Busk assumed his duties and helped reorganize the company under fire. In preparation for continuation of the attack, Sergeant Busk crawled from man to man with bullets barely missing him on numerous occasions. In the assault, during which he was wounded, Sergeant Busk moved forward aggressively setting an example for others in the company.²¹

During the attack as the enemy machine gun and rifle fire inflicted severe casualties on the battalion, Second Lieutenant Norris M. Teague of Company "B" exposed himself to the constant fire, rallied a sizeable striking force and rushed forward, leading his men to a small knoll fifty yards from the enemy. The position was important in repelling the enemy counter-attack.²¹

During the night the Blue Battalion was continuously in contact with the enemy receiving machine gun and small arms fire with intermittent artillery and tank fire. At 0500, 31 January the Battalion encountered strong, determined resistance.

Staff Sergeant Nicholas F. Valentino of Company "M" displayed extraordinary heroism that day. He seized a heavy machine gun, together with its tripod and box of ammunition, and carried it forward one hundred yards through intense 77mm, machine gun and machine pistol fire which had halted the advance of his battalion. Staggering under his one hundred twelve pound load, Staff Sergeant Valentino reached a point within seventy-five yards of the enemy. Although he was fatally wounded as he put his weapon into position, he nevertheless engaged the enemy as his life ebbed away, and succeeded in killing six of them. Then, intent on supporting his battalion to the very last, he shifted his fire to an enemy-held house three hundred yards away, delivering effective fire until his death two minutes later.

Second Lieutenant Herbert R. Gilman of Company "M" was fatally wounded by mortar fire after he and an assistant had retrieved a heavy machine gun tripod

and forced fourteen enemy to surrender. In spite of his fatal wounds the lieutenant was able to get his assistant to safety and place the prisoners under guard.²²

At about 0530, the Third Battalion was on its objective, Hill 83. Many enemy had been killed, twenty-five taken prisoners, six machine guns, one 75mm gun, twenty-five rifles and large amounts of ammunition captured. Receiving fire from three sides, the battalion dug-in and fought the enemy who blew the bridge in Ponte Rotto.

The Third Battalion was ordered to stay where it was and take up defensive positions. The advance of the battalion against very stiff opposition at night was an outstanding accomplishment. For their extraordinary heroism that night Staff Sergeant Valentino, posthumously, and Major Rosson were each awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²³ Heavy enemy artillery fire fell on the battalion and disrupted all communication. Second Lieutenant Edwin G. Johnson and Private First Class Robert D. Maxwell, who was wounded, restored vital communications.²⁴

During the night of 30-31 January, the Second Battalion moved to the road junction northwest of Pratone and took up defensive positions. During midmorning on the 31st, Companies "G" and "H" had several fights with isolated groups of enemy that had been by-passed during the night by the Red and Blue Battalions. Early in the afternoon, Company "G" attacked between the First and Third Battalions to bridge the gap that existed and to clear out all enemy sniper action.

FIRST BATTALION RESUMES THE ATTACK 31 JANUARY

In spite of all it had been through, the Red Battalion continued the offensive and attacked at 1400 on the 31st. With determination to achieve the objective, the troops advanced in the face of withering fire laid down by the enemy. It is impossible to understand how anything that moved could survive through that fire. Firing their weapons while running in a half-crouched manner, at times creeping and crawling in the slimy ooze that made them blend indistinguishably with the surrounding terrain, the advance elements overran two enemy 105s in the orchard that was to become famous. A group of men under the command of Captain William B. Athas of Company "D" turned the weapon around and used it to good effect on the enemy. Shortly thereafter the Red Battalion assault troops crossed the railroad tracks northwest of Cisterna di Littoria, an outstanding accomplishment that day that was not to be repeated until four months had passed. This was the farthest advance made by any unit on the beachhead during the attacks of 30-31 January 1944, and testifies to the superb fighting ability of the "Cotton Baler" troops. After reaching that exposed position, the battalion stuck out like a sore thumb and was counterattacked from the rear. As the First Battalion troops fought fiercely to beat off the enemy, the Second Battalion moved up behind the First and established contact near midnight with First Battalion Headquarters Company.

The Red Battalion troops fought with grim determination against enemy on all sides. The spirit of Sergeant

²⁰ For authority see GO 6 War Dept., Wash. D. C., 24 Jan. 1945.

²¹ GO No. 125, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 June '44. 2 Lt. Teague & Sgt. Busk were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²² GO No. 41, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 23 Mar. '44. 2 Lt. Gilman was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²³ For authority see GO 129 Hq. 5th Army 30 July 1944 and GO 110 Hq. 7th Army 17 Nov. 1944.

²⁴ GOs No. 38 & 41, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 & 23 Mar. '44. 2 Lt. Johnson & Pfc Maxwell were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Olson, and others who had died with him, kept the survivors fighting on to death rather than to put up the white flag.

At 0140, 1 February, the Second Battalion reported back to the Regimental Command Post that it was not in contact with the Red Battalion's rifle companies, and, only parts of the First Battalion Headquarters Company and Company "D" were left. At 0510, the Second Battalion reported receiving small arms fire from the left flank accompanied by flares. Telephonic communication did not exist between the two battalions during the night because of a scarcity of wire. Thirty-five minutes later another report came back from the White Battalion that the First had only one hundred twenty men left and that the whereabouts of the rifle companies was unknown. These reports gave rise to fears that the First Battalion rifle companies were no longer in existence, but this was not true as later found out. Having been cut to ribbons and torn to bloody fragments the rifle companies still existed, though with an average strength of twenty effectives. How even these few were able to survive can never be fully told. Their courage and bravery in the face of almost certain death is unsurpassed in the bloody sacrifices made by "Cotton Balermen" down through the years. There was fear of another enemy counter-attack that night. The Second Battalion got set for it while Anti-Tank Company brought mines forward and Cannon Company took up firing positions. Brigadier General John W. O'Daniel visited the command post at 1638 and issued the order from the commanding general, Major General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., to pull the First Battalion, or what was left of it, back from the exposed salient it occupied. Two minutes later the commanding general called the command post by phone and discussed the situation. At 1645 communication from the First Battalion came in giving the effective strength of the companies. Company "A" had only eighteen men, Company "B" two officers and twenty-three men, Company "C" two officers and sixteen

men, Company "D" one officer and thirty men, Headquarters Company four officers and thirty men, a total of nine officers and 117 men for the battalion remaining of the more than 800 who launched the attack early 30 January. However the Second Battalion reported twenty-five or more men from the Red Battalion located in its area. The First Battalion troops held in place then and after being relieved by White Battalion troops, withdrew to regimental reserve positions behind the Second Battalion.

Though the Red Battalion troops suffered many casualties they had taken a terrific toll from the enemy. It is estimated that two hundred of the best German soldiers were killed by the First Battalion in one afternoon alone. Reports say the enemy bodies were piled one on another in some areas.

Many feats of heroism, besides those already recounted, were performed on the field of battle during those last two days of January 1944. When Major Frank C. Sinsel took over command of the First Battalion it had been reduced from over eight hundred to two hundred forty-two officers and men. He reorganized it while under fire and led his men in a resumption of the attack. Exposing himself fearlessly to small arms fire at point blank range, and devastating shell fire which inflicted many casualties among his men, Major Sinsel directed the fire of supporting armor on enemy machine guns, destroying many of them and thus facilitated the battalion's advance. During the attack, because of the shortage of officers, Major Sinsel moved from company to company through intense machine gun and rifle fire, which killed and wounded men at his very side, directing the movements forward and encouraging his troops. After gaining a mile and a half of ground and crossing the tracks, he again reorganized his battalion and they dug in against the expected counter-attack. During the attack by the enemy, Major Sinsel left the cover of his foxhole to personally direct, amid automatic fire and bursting hand grenades, a successful defense by his troops.



KILLED IN ACTION
Eighteen of the 53 "Cotton Balers" who were killed by enemy action on 31 January 1944.

- (1) Pfc James K. Adkins, M.D.; (2) Pfc Raymond R. Baker, Co. "A"; (3) T/Sgt. Theodore C. Bansemer, Co. "A"; (4) T/5 Stephen T. Barbara, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (5) 1 Lt. Elmer J. Bendigo, Co. "A"; (6) Pvt. William J. Bumbarger, Co. "A"; (7) Pfc Steve P. Danko, Co. "D"; (8) Pvt. George H. Davidson, Co. "D"; (9) Pfc Charles M. Drury, Co. "K"; (10) S/Sgt. Walter W. Dziak, Co. "D"; (11) S/Sgt. Orville D. Egy, Co. "B"; (12) 2 Lt. Herbert R. Gilman, Co. "M"; (13) Pfc Frederick J. Matris, Co. "K"; (14) 1 Sgt. John A. Mayo, Co. "B"; (15) Pfc John E. Reynolds, Co. "D"; (16) Pfc Gordon W. Roberts, Co. "K"; (17) Pfc John V. Wagoner, Co. "F"; (18) 1 Lt. Clifford G. Gordon, Co. "K".

Inspired by their commander's fortitude the small number remaining clung to the ground they had bought so dearly, until they could be relieved by the White Battalion that night. Major Sinsel was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²⁵

During the attacks of 30-31 January Private First Class Charles P. Bornwasser of Company "B" effectively operated his radio despite the fire of enemy machine guns and mortar shells bursting within thirty-five yards of him and his radio. He was seriously wounded but refused evacuation and continued to operate his radio. Later he died of his wounds.²⁶

The calm leadership and disregard for personal safety displayed by five Company "D" men served as incentives for their fellow men and were material factors in aiding the First Battalion's advance. Corporal Alfred V. Tucker, who was twice wounded, eliminated an enemy machine gun nest with hand grenade and carbine fire. When his mortar section was ambushed and he was wounded Sergeant Orve J. Troyer reorganized his group as riflemen and conducted a winning fire fight in which he personally killed three Germans. Sergeant Everett E. Barr was thrice wounded by artillery shell fragments but successfully directed the fire of his machine gun section and once disposed his men as riflemen. On separate occasions Private First Class Thomas D'Angelo and Private Eldred B. Clark each operated heavy machine guns alone and knocked out German machine gun nests.²⁷

Captain Harold H. Haines, of First Battalion Headquarters Company, was wounded in action and displayed gallantry on several occasions while helping to organize the troops and direct their fight. Technician Fifth Grade Quentin C. Thomas, a code clerk of the same company, displayed courage and skill with a carbine when he silenced an enemy mortar crew and also knocked out one of two enemy machine guns which were firing on a group of thirty-three men and an officer who became separated from their company and were within enemy lines for a time. Private Urbine A. Bailey, Private Charles L. Tester, who became wounded while administering first aid to a wounded machine gunner, and Private William B. Summers, who treated the wounds of Lieutenant Colonel Izenour and evacuated many wounded soldiers, were three medical aid men who performed outstanding work on the battlefield.²⁸

FIRST BATTALION 30th INFANTRY BECOMES ATTACHED

The First Battalion of the 30th Infantry was attached to the Seventh Infantry at 0545, 31 January. It was located in the vicinity of Pontan di Amici and the commanding officer said it could assemble within an hour's time. Plans were made for the Friscan Battalion to attack from the southeast and south of the Blue Battalion at the same time as the "Cotton Baler" Red Battalion jumped off at 1400. At 1525 the Friscan troops had not yet crossed their line of departure. Finally they crossed the line at 1620, passed through the right of the Blue Battalion and encountered heavy small arms and artillery fire. The battalion reported its position to be near Ponte Rotto where it dug-in and prepared to defend. A patrol sent toward Cisterna di Littoria received heavy small arms fire and was unable to accomplish its mission. Another patrol to the north of the road was able to get two-thirds of the way to the town and reported armored vehicles and enemy troops along the road. The Battalion continued the attack at 0730, 1 February. Slow progress was made against small arms, machine gun and fire from two Mark IV tanks. At night the Friscan Battalion withdrew to the right flank of the "Cotton Baler" Blue Battalion.

SEVENTH INFANTRY GOES ON THE DEFENSIVE, REPELS COUNTER-ATTACKS 1-2 FEBRUARY

The large scale attack of VI Corps initiated 30 January 1944 failed to accomplish its objectives. The British divisions had failed to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Albano while the American Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) failed to capture Cisterna di Littoria and cut Highway 7 as directed. For the first time in World War II the "Rock of the Marne" Division was stopped. Not thinking the enemy had massed enough forces to halt a strong drive, but occupied only strong points in a forward defensive line, the division sought to infiltrate through those defenses in the hours of darkness early 30 January. The infiltration tactics were not suitable for attacking a strong line held by large numbers of the enemy who expected an attack and were laying traps to ensnare spearheads. Attacking in daylight over the flat, treeless terrain was suicide without dense smoke screens, and overwhelming air and artillery support. The result had been the elimination of the First and Third Ranger Battalions, the bad mauling of the Fourth Ranger Battalion and the weakened efficiency of the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantries due to heavy casualties. Though the assigned objectives had not been seized, the forces of the Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) took a terrific toll of the enemy and offset its own losses. Magnificent fighting was displayed by all units and attached organizations that will live forever.

On 1 and 2 February 1944, the Germans repeatedly counter-attacked as the Seventh Infantry adjusted its positions and went on the defensive.

During an enemy counter-attack which began at 0600 hours 1 February, Staff Sergeant Frank H. Vanderbilt of Company "E" stuck to his machine gun post for twelve hours under heavy fire. Enemy infantry three hundred yards away directed small arms fire at him and artillery shells burst within ten yards of him as he repeatedly crawled from his position to obtain ammunition from



Two of 16 "Cotton Balers" killed by enemy action on 1 February 1944 were left to right: Pfc Melvin D'Angelo, Co. "F", and Pvt. Edward J. Rake, of the Med. Det.

casualties in order to keep his gun in operation. His tenacity and courage were an inspiration to the men around him and contributed materially to the repulse of the enemy. In subsequent action he became missing.²⁹

When an assault platoon of Company "G" unexpectedly came under the withering fire of enemy mortars, machine guns and machine pistols which confused and disorganized its members, Staff Sergeant Ned E. Dively,

²⁵ For authority see GO 107 Hq. 7th Army 11 Nov. 1944.

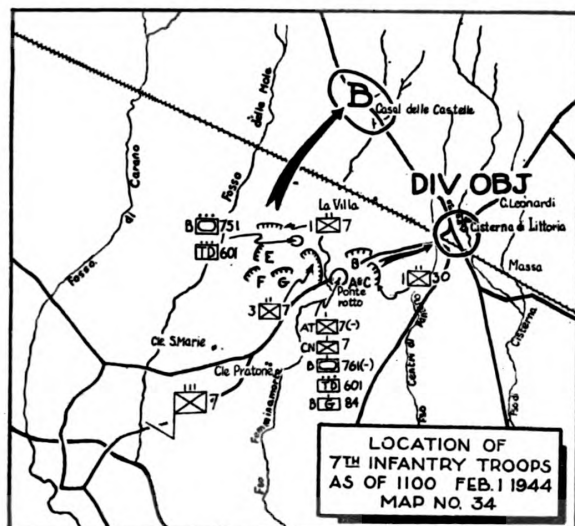
²⁶ GO No. 148, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 July '44. Pfc Bornwasser was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁷ GOs No. 41, 43 & 158, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 23 & 26 Mar. & 18 July '44. Sgts. Barr & Troyer, Cpl. Tucker, Pfc D'Angelo & Pvt. Clark were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁸ GOs No. 39, 108, 143, 158 & 196, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Mar., 9 & 28 June, 18 July & 26 Sept. '44. Capt. Haines, T/5 Thomas, Pfts. Bailey, Tester (posthumously) & Summers were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁹ GO No. 87, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 May '44. S/Sgt. Vanderbilt was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

platoon guide of the support platoon, rushed forward and organized effective resistance. Though the enemy



was only a short distance away and the terrain was open and flat, he moved around from man to man encouraging them and directing their fire. He then shifted the platoon three hundred yards to where enfilade fire was placed on the enemy and was an important factor in repulsing the attack. In subsequent action he also became missing.³⁰

Privates First Class Michael S. Balogh, Stephen J. Nemeth and Fred S. Romero of Company "H" were escorting approximately thirty prisoners to the rear when suddenly two enemy machine guns, which had been previously by-passed fired at them at about fifteen yards and killed Private First Class Romero. Balogh was captured by the enemy but Nemeth managed to escape to the safety of a ditch twenty yards away. When the former prisoner group started to march off with Balogh, Nemeth killed one enemy and wounded another with rifle fire. At the same time friendly mortar crews laid down a concentration in the area which pinned the enemy down and gave Balogh the opportunity to seize a machine pistol and escape to the ditch occupied by Nemeth. When the concentration lifted the two men opened fire on the enemy, killed one and recaptured forty-three Germans.³¹

Bright and early on 2 February, the Germans launched powerful attacks against the Second and Third Battalions. The "Cotton Baler" troops held and a bitter fight raged throughout the morning. Company "G" gave a good account of itself and captured forty-nine enemy. The Germans dumped heavy artillery and mortar concentrations on the White Battalion along about noon-time. Tanks of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, went up into the front lines and flushed out many enemy from their holes. In one instance twelve Germans came in waving white flags. Small patrols from the Second Battalion rounded up 131 of the enemy. At 1740 the enemy followed up with his second attack of the day against the Second Battalion. Heavy artillery concentrations and a great volume of small arms fire and automatic weapons fire were used against the left elements of the battalion.

Staff Sergeant Donald J. Poorman, of Company "G", and Private James A. Goodwin, of Company "A", fought heroically firing at enemy machine guns and snipers. Private Charles M. Lanier, who was wounded in action, and Private Elmer V. Shepherd, both of the Medical Detachment, evacuated numerous casualties during the attack. Private First Class John W. Seely, of

Company "K", had been one of the first to observe the enemy approaching early on 2 February and reported the impending attack, then killed several Germans and contributed to the repulse of the enemy. Staff Sergeant John T. Partin, of Company "K", delivered accurate fire data to the mortars which helped stop the attack. Private First Class Peter Hudock, who was killed in action, and Private Joseph Di Mattesa, who were also from "King" Company, repaired and restored communication between the outpost line of resistance and the company command post.³²

First Lieutenants James H. Ellis and Louie R. Van Hoy and Privates Matthew F. Bielski and Norman M. Cyr, all of Company "F", played an important part in breaking up the enemy attack which threatened to wipe out their company. The two lieutenants coolly and skillfully deployed their men to meet the attack then fought beside their men. First Lieutenant Van Hoy personally inflicted about fifteen casualties on the enemy though his own platoon was cut down to ten men. Private Cyr, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Private Bielski killed twelve Germans between them and forced twenty-eight others, who had infiltrated into their company's positions, to surrender.³³

The daring and skillful leadership of Staff Sergeant Geran W. Russell, of Company "E", who was killed in a subsequent action, enabled his rifle squad with an attached mortar squad to hold at bay for forty-five minutes an enemy force of company strength supported by artillery and mortar fire. Despite intense enemy fire at close range he constantly moved from man to man and directed the fire of his squad so effectively that many casualties were inflicted on the enemy and others were pinned down.³⁴

With the assistance of the artillery, tanks of the 751st Tank Battalion and destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the attack against the Second Battalion was repulsed after a two hour fight with heavy losses to both sides. Lieutenant Colonel Duvall asked for friendly troops to be sent up on his battalion's left flank as the battalion's strength began to run low.

The attached First Battalion of the 30th Infantry remained in its defensive positions throughout the day and the "Cotton Baler" Red Battalion remained in Regimental reserve, licking its wounds and recuperating. Both battalions were subjected to enemy artillery fire.

Company "F" of the 30th Infantry moved during the night of 2-3 February for the left flank of the Second Battalion to occupy defensive positions, reinforce the left flank and assist in the event of a counter-attack. Contact was broken at times due to heavy enemy artillery fire.

SEVENTH INFANTRY (REINFORCED) HOLDS GROUND GAINED

The four days of fighting, two in the attack and two on the defense, cost the Regiment 158 members killed in

³⁰ GO No. 158, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '44. S/Sgt. Dively was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³¹ GO No. 294, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Dec. '44. Pfc Balogh & Pfc Nemeth were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³² GOs No. 51, 91, 101, 108, 117 & 125, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Apr., 13 May, 7, 9, 13 & 18 June '44. S/Sgts. Partin & Poorman, Pfc Hudock (posthumously), Pfc Seely, Privts. DiMattesa, Goodwin, Lanier & Shepherd were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³³ GOs No. 48, 134 & 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 Apr., 27 June & 3 Sept. '44. Pvt. Cyr (posthumously), 1 Lt. Ellis, 1 Lt. Van Hoy & Pvt. Bielski were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ GO No. 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. '44. S/Sgt. Russell was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

action; 79 from the First Battalion, 51 from the Second Battalion, 19 from the Third Battalion and 9 from the Medical Detachment. Four hundred sixty-eight of the wounded were evacuated during that period while others suffered their wounds until later days to be evacuated. An unknown number received slight wounds and continued in action. All the rifle companies of the First Battalion and Company "F" were hard hit. (For a complete list of men killed in action on those days see the Appendix). The combat efficiency of the Regiment had been greatly reduced.

All battalions of the Regiment plus the attached First Battalion of the 30th Infantry remained in position during the period 3-4 February and held the ground gained. Local counter-attacks were repulsed. At about 0730 hours 3 February when an enemy machine gun crew, with several supporting riflemen, attacked his mortar section's position Private Juan E. Garcia of Company "H", crawled from the safety of his foxhole to secure better observation, and engaged the machine gun nest at about sixty yards range with his rifle. After a half hour fight, during which bullets hit about two feet from him. Private Garcia killed six of the enemy and silenced the machine gun.³⁵

One of the Regiment's great heroes of this war, and of all time, was killed in action during the enemy attack against Company "H" on 3 February. Private First Class

Floyd K. Lindstrom, who had won the Silver Star Medal for gallantry displayed in Sicily, and, then displayed heroism on Mount la Di Fensa in the Southern Italy Campaign, which was to merit the nation's highest valor award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, was among those killed. During the time the Regiment trained in the Piano di Quarto area, Private First Class Lindstrom was given an opportunity to work on the baggage detail that was to remain in the Naples area with the Personnel Section of S-1 rear and not make the Nettuno landing. It was suggested that he stay back until it was definitely known if the recommendation for the Congressional Medal of Honor, which was then being forwarded to Congress for consideration, was to be approved. Private First Class Lindstrom refused this opportunity saying that his place was with his company. He need not have faced the enemy again, but like Sergeant Olson and hundreds of other heroes of the Regiment he entertained no thought of quitting the fight until it should be won.

Replacements were received by the First Battalion, in regimental reserve, and it began to regain some of its strength. Patrols were active and brought back information that the enemy was fortified in all the houses along the road to Cisterna di Littoria. One patrol found several

³⁵ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug. '44. Pvt. Garcia was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Twenty-seven of 54 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 2 February 1944. (1) Pvt. Marcel R. Beaudet, Co. "B"; (2) Pvt. Edward J. Bugaila, Co. "B"; (3) 1 Lt. George H. Carstens, Co. "F"; (4) Pvt. Stanley A. Ceberek, Co. "B"; (5) Pfc Laverne E. Ditsworth, Co. "B"; (6) Pvt. John Eazor, Co. "A"; (7) Pfc Lloyd M. Fisher, Co. "B"; (8) Pvt. Richard C. Gabrynowicz, Co. "A"; (9) Pvt. Kenneth J. Garvey, Co. "H"; (10) Pvt. John C. Gilmore, Co. "A"; (11) Pfc Clarence Godsey, Co. "E"; (12) Sgt. Frank Grabarek, Co. "E"; (13) Pvt. Arthur F. Harlow, Co. "H"; (14) Pfc. Paul F. Harrell, Co. "A"; (15) Pvt. Charles L. Jamison, Co. "F"; (16) Pvt. Calvin C. Jennings, Co. "E"; (17) Pfc Walter D. McKeel, Co. "B"; (18) Pvt. George V. McVay, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (19) S/Sgt. Joseph Miazga, Co. "F"; (20) Pvt. Edgar A. Nichols, Co. "E"; (21) T/Sgt. William Schwab, Co. "A"; (22) Pvt. Carl J. Snyder, Co. "A"; (23) Pvt. Philip L. Thomas, Co. "B"; (24) S/Sgt. Robert T. Wilson, Jr., Co. "B"; (25) Pfc David M. Yingling, Co. "B"; (26) Pvt. Albert W. Zdimal, Co. "A"; (27) Pfc Jake E. Zinda, Co. "A".

American packs, rifles, carbines, and two 81mm mortars and one heavy machine gun. Other patrols reported the enemy digging in. Enemy artillery was active and pounded the front line positions. Mines were laid in all likely avenues of enemy approach to increase defenses against further counter-attacks.

At midnight 3-4 February, the battalions were alerted to keep awake and prepared for any enemy counter-attack as the British on the left were meeting one. However there were none on the Seventh Infantry front during the night. Rain continued to fall and there was danger friendly armor would become bogged.

On 4 February 1944 at 0600 hours, Staff Sergeant Jesse Stratton of Company "E" took three enemy soldiers prisoners and was directly responsible for the capture of thirty more. Part of a larger force, these enemy soldiers were attempting to infiltrate through "E" Company's outpost line of resistance. Staff Sergeant Stratton rushed alone across fifty yards of exposed terrain covered by mortar, machine gun, and rifle fire and surprised the three Germans taking them prisoners. Summoning eight comrades, he led them around a bend in a ditch and captured thirty more of the enemy who were demoralized by the unexpected appearance of Staff Sergeant Stratton and his men. In subsequent action Staff Sergeant Stratton was killed.³⁶

Colonel Sherman held a meeting during the afternoon of 4 February with his staff, the battalion and separate unit commanders. The battalions were praised for their good work, then the regimental commander outlined the work to be given priority. Thorough reconnaissance of the ground then held was to be made with the view of setting up as strong defensive positions as possible. The men were to be well dug-in. The outpost lines of resistance were to be manned by one-third of the Second and Third Battalions while the remainder of the Regiment was to withdraw by infiltration methods under cover of darkness to assembly areas, then be prepared to occupy any defensive position on the main line of resistance.



Two of 8 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 3 February 1944. L. to R.: Sgt. Orlando L. Hjetland, Co. "A", and Pvt. Gerard E. Rynka, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.

Double wire lines were laid to all assembly areas and made as secure as possible. No ground was to be abandoned by the one-third holding force unless absolutely necessary. Forward areas and the stream bed were to be strewn with all available mines. It was stressed that commanding officers left in command should be the best. The artillery liaison and forward observers were to remain with the holding forces.

The battalions were shelled by enemy artillery throughout 4 February and sustained casualties. Anti-Tank Company lost three vehicles and Cannon Company suffered four casualties from the enemy artillery fire. The Regiment less the holding force, which became attached to the 30th Infantry, commenced its withdrawal at 1840. During the movement, a strong enemy force broke through the front line units at about 2000 hours and threatened the Second Battalion Observation Post. Private First Class Edward C. Gupton of Company "E" silenced, with carbine fire, an enemy machine gun attempting to cut off the observation post group. With fire from an enemy machine gun one hundred fifty yards

to the right, cutting off the rear exit of the OP building, Private First Class Gupton, a company runner, engaged the crew of the closest weapon with his carbine. Although enemy artillery shells blasted the building and the machine gun shifted its fire to him so that bullets missed him by inches, Private First Class Gupton silenced the crew in a half-hour duel. Meanwhile the entire OP group was able to withdraw in safety.³⁷

On 5 February Private First Class Jack Miller of Third Battalion Headquarters left the cover of a foxhole to go forward and repair a broken line. To do this required crossing four hundred yards of terrain saturated by enemy artillery. Crawling and running with shell fragments landing within inches of him, he traversed approximately one hundred yards until concussion from a shell knocked him down. He got up and continued until about fifty yards further when he received a shell fragment wound in the back. Still undaunted he continued forward until he reached the broken wire which he repaired, and then returned over the same route to cover.³⁸

The Regiment minus the holding forces reverted to Division Reserve in areas south of LeFerriere. The two tanks that strengthened the outpost in front of the First Battalion 30th Infantry withdrew without orders and were sent back to their positions.



Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore commanded the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 10 July 1942 to 12 February 1943 and from 1 March 1943 to 25 July 1943. He served as the Regimental Executive Officer from 25 July 1943 to 7 January 1944 and from 11 January 1944 to 5 February 1944.

Late in the afternoon of 5 February, an estimated company of enemy attacked the Third Division outpost line following an artillery preparation. The holding forces from the White and Blue Battalions which were left in the line received much of the shock and suffered some casualties. Enemy supported by three Mark III tanks were stopped before Seventh Infantry positions and withdrew under cover of their own artillery.

³⁶ GO No. 125, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 June '44. S/Sgt. Stratton was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁷ GO No. 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. '44. Pfc Gupton was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁸ GO No. 38, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 17 Mar. '44. Pfc Miller was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

SEVENTH INFANTRY IMPROVES DEFENSIVE POSITIONS ALONG CANALE MUSSOLINI

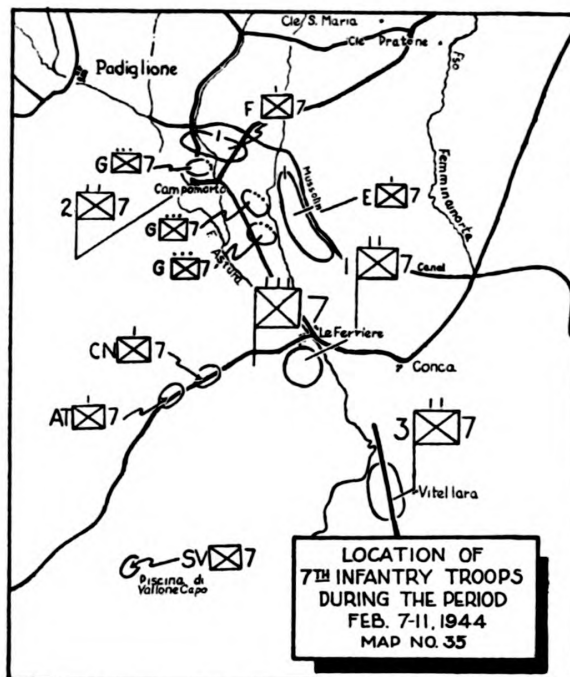
On 6 February, the holding forces in the division outpost line of resistance were relieved of attachment to the 30th Infantry and rejoined their battalions late in the afternoon. That evening the Second Battalion occupied defensive positions on the main line of resistance along Canale Mussolini. The Third Infantry Division going on the defensive for the first time in World War II was establishing a defense in depth. The following night, the Third Battalion also took up defensive positions on the canal.

During the period 7-14 February, the regiment continued to improve its defensive positions along Canale Mussolini, which was the main line of resistance. The Second and Third Battalions worked on the defenses at night and remained in assembly areas during the daytime. The First Battalion was on a half-hour alert at all times. Anti-Tank Company was responsible for the anti-tank defense of the entire canal and was reinforced by the anti-tank platoons of the battalions. Cannon Company was prepared to go into position in any defensive area or to accompany any battalion with assault guns.

During this period, Lieutenant Colonel Roy E. Moore, who had served the Regiment well as Commanding Officer of the First Battalion in French Morocco and Sicily and then as Regimental Executive Officer, left the Seventh Infantry to assume command of the 15th Infantry. He was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Ashton G. Manhart who served in the executive's capacity for only a few days, however, before transferring to the 45th Infantry Division. Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges, former Blue Battalion Commander then assumed the duties of second in command.

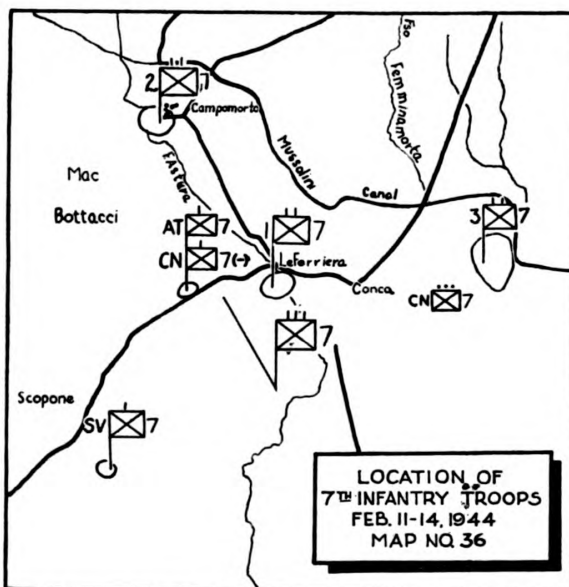
On 7 February, the Regiment received 9 officers and 510 enlisted men as replacements. Four additional officers also joined for temporary duty. Then on the 9th, 13 more officers and 307 additional enlisted men became "Cotton Balermen." With 63 hospital "returnees" returning a few days later, the Regiment was back at normal strength.

Enemy air activity over the beachhead increased during this period. Beginning the night of 12-13 February, low flying enemy planes would drop anti-personnel bombs and flares on the front lines while the German ground forces also lighted the ground with white phosphorous. Casualties were suffered and the troops began to make coverings for their foxholes whenever possible.



Three members of the 7th Infantry who died of wounds on 7-8 February 1944 were left to right: Pvt. Daniel R. Bastian, Co. "A"; Pfc Vernon A. Drury, Co. "K", and Pvt. Henry J. Tomaka, of Co. "A".

During the entire period of 7-14 February, the Regiment was subjected to enemy mortar and artillery fire which caused most of the casualties which were sustained. But on the night of 8 February, one man was killed and four wounded in our own mine fields in the Blue Battalion area. As the skies were overcast, that night an enemy attack was expected and all the battalions were placed on the alert. The Seventh Infantry was spared of heavy combat that night, though the enemy did attack the British forces in their section of the beachhead and a battle ensued for three days.



The Enemy Is Twice Thrown Back As Gallant Seventh Infantry Holds Its Ground

15 FEBRUARY TO 28 MARCH, 1944

Following reconnaissance of the 30th Infantry sector on the front line, the Seventh Infantry commenced relief of that organization. The First Battalion relieved the reserve battalion of the 30th Infantry during the night of 14-15 February 1944; the following night the Second Battalion relieved the left flank elements. Enemy air activity was unusually heavy that night and the Regimental Command Post moved from the CP tent into a bomb shelter. Due to enemy activity on the entire front, the Third Battalion was not able to go into the right flank positions and relieve the 30th Infantry elements there, until the night of 17-18 February.

GERMANS COUNTER-ATTACK 16 FEBRUARY 1944

Because of the increased German air activity, shelling of our positions and continuous feeling of our front lines by patrols, it was felt by everyone from the front line "dogface" to the commanding general at Division Headquarters that the enemy was to throw a major attack at the "Rock of the Marne" Division. The "Cotton Baler" Regiment had returned to the front line in time to meet it. The enemy had increased his troops, armor and artillery on our front. To spoil the enemy's plans, VI Corps put on a big "shoot" early 16 February, the biggest "shoot" up to that time on the Anzio Beachhead.

As expected, the Germans made a strong attack against the beachhead forces, the main effort of which was against the 45th Infantry Division to our left, along the Albano-Anzio road. Lesser attacks were made in the Third Infantry Division sector, one of which caused a penetration between the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry and the Third Battalion 30th Infantry.

Early the morning of 16 February, a strong enemy force succeeded in making a penetration between Company "K", 30th Infantry and Company "E", Seventh Infantry. A detachment of Company "E" was driven from its position, but Company "G" moved over and quickly retook the ground. Company "E" engaged in rough fighting and suffered quite heavy casualties. One officer and fourteen enlisted men of Company "E" were killed that day.

When an enemy platoon broke through the outpost position of Company "E", Private First Class Nelson C. Edwards, in spite of the intense machine gun, machine pistol and rifle fire, hurried to intercept the enemy pla-

toon. Singlehandedly he held up its advance for several minutes until the remainder of his squad could take up the fire fight. Thereafter, when the German riflemen withdrew, he rose up in view of the gunner of a hostile machine gun and for five minutes fired such a heavy stream of bullets in his direction that the gunner had to take cover. That heroic action allowed the evacuation of two wounded comrades.³⁹

When a group of enemy soldiers infiltrated to within fifty yards of his platoon's position after an artillery preparation had caused disorganization, Sergeant Rex E. Wilson of Company "E" personally shifted one of the machine guns seventy-five yards and poured such rapid fire into the enemy ranks that sixteen casualties were inflicted and his platoon was given a chance to recover from its temporary disorganization. Sergeant Hubert L. Aaron gallantly led his "E" Company squad through heavy machine gun and rifle fire against an enemy force of company strength and forced it to give ground. Private First Class James F. McGinnis of "Fox" Company successfully directed artillery fire by radio and destroyed an enemy tank.⁴⁰

In the afternoon Company "C" attacked through Company "K" of the 30th Infantry and in fierce fighting drove the enemy back. At midnight all positions were restored. Nine Company "C" men were killed by the enemy during the fighting. Staff Sergeant Weldon E. Bloom and Private First Class Andrew Crapo displayed bold leadership and gallant actions. Private Lloyd S. Cooper sacrificed his life to enable an officer to free himself and organize an assault which inflicted fourteen casualties on the enemy and captured a position with sixteen prisoners of war. When the officer had become caught on concertina wire Private Cooper stood up and fired his M-1 rifle at the enemy. Just as he emptied his clip Private Cooper was killed by enemy fire.⁴¹

The enemy continued his attacks on the 17th and succeeded in penetrating the 45th Infantry Division lines by three thousand yards which was a serious threat to

³⁹ GO No. 134, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 June '44. Pfc Edwards was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁰ GOs No. 91, 189 & 256, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 May, 10 Sept. '44 & 15 July '45. Sgt. Aaron, Sgt. Wilson & Pfc McGinnis were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴¹ GOs No. 43 & 202, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 26 Mar. & 30 Sept. '44. S/Sgt. Bloom, Pfc Crapo & Pvt. Cooper (posthumously) were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Six of 28 "Cotton Balers" killed in action on 16 February 1944, were left to right: 2 Lt. William E. Bushby, Sgt. Walter A. Dec, Pvt. Clifford O. Hebert, Pvt. Walter G. Karschnia, Sgt. Edward J. Miller, and Pvt. Leroy V. Tagler, all of Company "E".

the beachhead. On a smaller scale the enemy forced a penetration between the Seventh Infantry and the 509th Parachute Battalion, which was beaten back however.

On 17 February, between 0800 and 1000 hours, Private First Class Raul M. Martinez, by his fearless operation of a machine gun in the face of fire that inflicted seven casualties among his comrades, played an important role in repelling an enemy attack. Although the other machine gun in his section was knocked out by a direct hit from a Mark VI, or Tiger Tank, at one hundred fifty yards range, Private First Class Martinez continued to engage several enemy machine guns and to mow down enemy foot troops.⁴²

Private First Class Donald A. Alto of Company "F" virtually wiped out with machine gun fire an enemy force of about thirty-five Germans who infiltrated toward his position. Ignoring the advice of several nearby riflemen, Private First Class Alto waited until the enemy were approximately fifty yards from him before he opened up. With a terrific burst of fire, he killed or wounded about twenty of the enemy. Near the end of the two-hour fire fight, a group of about eight more Germans crawled through deep bushes to a point some twenty-five feet from Private First Class Alto, and threw hand grenades at him. Tossing several grenades in return, Private First Class Alto killed two, wounded one and forced the surrender of the other five.⁴³

At midnight, 17-18 February, Company "B", 751st Tank Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Hobbs; Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion commanded by Captain Miner; Company "B", 84th Chemical Battalion, Commanded by Captain Butts and the 509th Parachute Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Yarbaro became attached to the Regiment.

Throughout the night Companies "E" and "F" engaged enemy in small arms fights. Two tanks moved up behind Company "E" to give support in daylight. Company "F" reported four parachutists dropping in its area while the Blue Battalion troops saw a plane burst into flames and two other parachutists coming down. Patrols were unable to make any progress that night due to the heavy enemy artillery, mortar, small arms and machine gun fire.

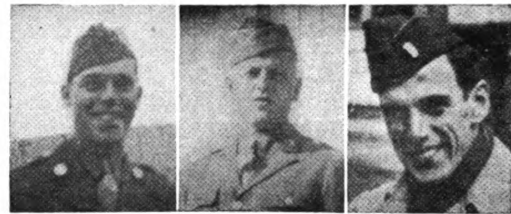
In the morning of the 18th, planes bombed to the rear of our lines and there was doubt as to their true identity. Enemy artillery fire became intense and one shell hit "the castle" in Campomorto. Just a few days previous a rest camp for the men had been established in "the castle", where a number of them could withdraw each night to have a dry place to sleep, eat a hot meal, shave and change clothes before returning to the front the next morning. Five men were wounded at "the castle" including Jack Sweeney, the American Red Cross representative.

At 1115, a platoon of Company "E" was counter-attacked while Company "A" was being hit by heavy artillery. The 509th Parachute Battalion reported our own American planes had strafed and bombed our troops. The left flank was the danger spot and as it was impossible for the armor to move up behind the Second Battalion because of the mine fields. Company "A", 10th Engineers, commanded by Captain Swift, were put to work cleaning a path for the tanks. The situation on the left grew more serious as the line from the 509th Parachute Battalion to the 180th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division withdrew.

The enemy attacked the left flank positions of the Regiment held by the attached 509th Parachute Battalion and the Second Battalion. Company "C" was maneuvered to give support to the parachute battalion and Com-

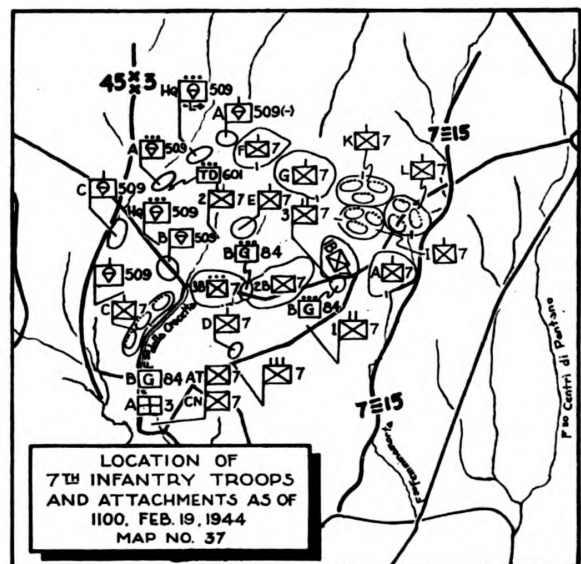
pany "G" relieved Company "E" during the night. As the 180th Infantry fell back on the left and Third Division Headquarters warned all units to be on the alert for enemy parachute landings, the situation became more tense. The 509th Parachute Battalion asked for anti-aircraft units to be placed in its sector. Company "I" was ready to move to any area in the Regimental sector to assist in repelling the enemy. It was discovered that Channel 274 on the 609 radio was being used by the Germans so Warrant Officer Claude O. Keough, assistant communication officer, busied himself monitoring all messages.

Enemy armor maneuvered around in front of Company "F" positions during the night and artillery was brought to bear on them. Three enemy trucks unloaded personnel in front of Company "F". Artillery and small arms fire were received in the morning. Then at noontime on 19 February, following heavy concentrations of mortar and artillery fire, a battalion of enemy attacked the



Three of 17 "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives in action during the period 17-19 February 1944 were left to right: S/Sgt. John M. Lees, Co. "F"; Sgt. Joseph M. Grady, Co. "F", and 2 Lt. John G. Murphy, Co. "K".

Second Battalion and the 509th Parachute Battalion. Friendly artillery replied to the enemy with devastating barrages, while the Paratroopers and the White Battalion troops poured withering fire from rifles and automatic weapons into the enemy ranks. At 1330, the enemy were stopped, but two hours later, another enemy force with three tanks attacked Company "F" and the 509th



⁴² GO No. 206, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 Oct. '44. Pfc Martinez was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴³ GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. Pfc Alto was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Parachute Battalion. In the two hour fight that followed. Company "F" was pretty badly beaten up but one enemy tank was knocked out and the enemy beaten off. As the engineers cleared paths, tanks moved up to support the Second Battalion. The First Battalion, minus Company "A", moved to the left, behind the 509th Parachute and Second Battalions. Companies "E" and "F" each sent out four patrols during the night.

On 20 February, one of our bombers was set aflame as a result of enemy action in the vicinity of the Regimental sector. Five tiny buds quickly mushroomed into parachutes as the men made their way out of the flaming hulk. Slowly they descended, all eyes were aloft; would they be able to make the sanctuary of our lines protected by the fire from Company "F"? Only one was successful; the others landed in enemy territory and were quickly captured. The rest center at the castle at Campomorto had to be discontinued on 20 February, because of enemy air and artillery action.

During the period of 20-28 February, the Regiment held its lines always on the alert for a counter-attack, spending most of its time improving its positions, stringing wire, laying mines and repulsing enemy patrols that showed stubborn intentions of infiltrating through the outposts to reach the rear areas. Enemy concentrations of fire were severe and caused most of the casualties. Other units in the vicinity received counter-attacks which were invariably preceded by heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire over the entire sector. Artillery and mortars counter-battered each other regularly. Numerous patrols were sent out to wipe out German nests of resistance. The brush was infested with German soldiers and many of the patrols failed to return and usually were prevented from accomplishing their missions. A patrol from Company "B" engaged enemy in a brisk fight the night of 25-26 February and Second Lieutenant Cleveland A. Warren was killed by the enemy.

Private Dorsie S. Wells, of Company "M", who was wounded in action while restoring and maintaining vital communications between his platoon command post and the machine guns, and Private Richard M. Lowman, of Company "H", who once duelled an enemy tank and riflemen with his machine gun, were gallant in their actions. Private James A. Groenveld, of Company "D", was severely burned while rescuing an officer from the flaming wreckage of a United States Army fighter plane which crashed near his position.⁴⁴

Lieutenant Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro joined the Regiment during the closing days of February 1944 and assumed the duties of executive officer to the commanding officer and Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges returned to his old command of leading the Third Battalion in action. Major William B. Rosson transferred to G-3 Section of VI Corps Headquarters.

WITH SEVENTH INFANTRY IN THE CENTER THE THIRD DIVISION REPULSES GERMANS' STRONGEST BID TO WIPE OUT THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD--29 FEBRUARY - 3 MARCH 1944

The front line of the American Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) the night of 28-29 February 1944, on the Anzio Beachhead, was held by the Seventh Infantry in the center, the 509th Parachute Battalion on the left and the 15th Infantry on the right.

The Seventh Infantry sector stretched from the Fosso Femminamorto on the right, near Ponte Rotto, to the Fosso della Crocetta on the left. In the left center the Fosso delle Mole cut through the sector. From left to right the Second and Third Battalions had disposed Company "E" commanded by Captain Frank L. Wil-

liams. Company "G" commanded by Captain Edgar H. Poinsett, Company "K" commanded by Captain Frank Petruzell and Company "L" under the command of Captain John W. Blaikie. Companies "F" and "I" occupied reserve positions for their respective battalions. Company "A", under the command of Captain Robert L. Crozier, occupied right flank positions behind Company "L".

The night of 28-29 February 1944, on the Anzio Beachhead, was quieter than usual until just before dawn. In the Seventh Infantry sector the "Cotton Baler" companies carried on as usual. Company "A" maintained its motorized parachute patrols. Companies "E" and "G" had work details laying out more wire. Lieutenant Colonel Duvall reported that six hundred yards of wire had been strung in the vicinity of Company "G's" right platoon and two hundred yards of wire in the vicinity of Company "E" 's right platoon. Parachute trip flares were attached to the wire and were also placed in the mine fields which had been laid on previous nights. Double concertina wire had also been laid to the front. The Third Battalion maintained patrols. However, before long, it was reported that the Germans were laying a smoke screen to the front and advancing troops behind it. The new Third Division Commanding General, Brigadier General John W. ("Iron Mike") O'Daniel, called the Regimental Command Post and warned Colonel Sherman to be on the alert for an enemy attack. It was too quiet. The Second Battalion reported that the Commanding Officer of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion wished to withdraw his tank destroyers in the event enemy Infantry should push through our lines during an attack. It was stated the tank destroyers would not be able to move over the soggy terrain. Colonel Sherman ordered that the tank destroyers would remain in position if for no other purpose than to support the morale of the "dogfaces" and in case of an enemy tank break-through they could repel the enemy tanks. It was not the intention of the Seventh Infantry to give ground.

Just before dawn 29 February 1944, the unusual stillness of the Anzio Beachhead was rudely broken when the enemy opened up with heavy concentrations all along the Third Infantry Division front. The German 362nd Infantry Division, supported by forty Mark IV and Mark VI tanks spearheaded an assault against the "Rock of the Marne" Division and was reinforced by elements of the Herman Goering Division, the 15th and 26th Panzer Divisions, and the 715th Infantry Division. The fight was on and the magnificent stand put on by the American Third Infantry Division in repelling elements of the five German divisions in the four-day battle that followed, proved to the world once more that "Rock of the Marne", pinned on the division after its gallant stands on the shell-swept banks of the Marne in 1918, was a name fully justified.

In the center of the Third Division line the Second and Third Battalions of the old Seventh U. S. Infantry Regiment were heavily blasted from Fosso della Crocetta to Ponte Rotto. Enemy tanks and Infantry followed the concentration and began clearing paths through the mines and wire that had been so carefully laid by our men on previous nights. The first German Infantry to hit the Third Division line struck between the two front line "Cotton Baler" battalions but was stopped cold by murderous, withering fire. The enemy followed this up with another strong force attacking the Second Battalion left flank but was again stopped as Company "F" com-

⁴⁴ GOs No. 91, 155 & 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 May, 15 July & 3 Sept. '44. Pvts. Lowman & Wells were each awarded the Silver Star Medal. Pvt. Groenveld was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

manded by Captain James N. Pearman, Jr., was shifted to back up Company "E". About twenty enemy succeeded in penetrating between Companies "L" and "A" on the right flank but were quickly mopped up.

On the left of the Seventh Infantry the Germans succeeded in breaking through the lines of the 509th Parachute Battalion and drove on. The situation was extremely serious. Had the enemy known, he could have turned left and advanced on the Seventh Infantry Command Post practically unmolested. At 0737 the following radio message from the 509th Parachute Battalion was received: "Enemy has broken through. Need light tanks. Urgent." The platoon of light tanks of Company "D", 751st Tank Battalion, attached to the Seventh Infantry, was sent to the aid of the parachute battalion which also requested air missions. Company "C", commanded by Captain William B. Stewart, moved up the draw behind Company "F" as a safety measure. Company "B" also moved to the left flank.

In the fight that day the enemy used his neblowerfers, or six-barreled mortars, to fire unusually heavy concentrations on the Seventh Infantry troops. Following the breakthrough in the 509th Parachute Battalion sector the Second Battalion was quickly hit on both flanks. Fierce hand to hand fighting took place. More and more of the enemy came over from the left. Even an anti-tank platoon had to leave its guns and deploy as riflemen to stem the attack.

In the early afternoon the enemy laid in a concentration of neblowerfer fire and under cover of smoke attacked between Companies "G" and "K" with tanks

was committed by Division Headquarters and attacked through the 509th Parachute Battalion on the left to recover the lost ground.

The situation on the left flank improved during the afternoon as the Second Battalion got increased artillery support and American planes strafed and bombed enemy to the front of the White troops. On the right however the situation grew more critical. Company "K" and "L" were having a hard time and contact with Company "A" sometimes became broken. The Third Battalion reported five Mark IV tanks in the vicinity of Bridge 5 and four "Tigers," or Mark VI tanks, in the vicinity of the Ponte Rotto road junction. The artillery forward observer with the Blue Battalion became a battle casualty. At 1717 the entire Third Battalion area was covered by "Screaming Meemie" or neblowerfer fire followed by dense smoke concentrations. Then the enemy attacked again and the fight carried on through the night.

Enemy tanks overran some of the forward platoons of the companies and fired direct into the "Cotton Baler" foxholes killing many of our men. There was no retreat or withdrawal by the Blue Battalion forces, those groups that were passed fought on to the bitter end. Flares threw a lurid glow over the area and the skirmish lines of the German infantry closely supported by their tanks could be discerned making their way toward the battalion lines. Only by the most determined efforts of all were the attacks beaten off. The right squad of Company "L" was overrun with seven of the men killed outright. At places the enemy succeeded in making penetrations but were driven back. Companies "K" and "L" were weakened but asked no quarter. The reserve platoon of Company "I" and a tank destroyer squad and mortar squad from Company "A" moved to the vicinity of Bridge 5 and succeeded in killing some enemy and capturing prisoners. Bazooka teams went into position along the Ponte Rotto road. Engineers of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion went beyond the front lines that night, blew a crater in the road and put mines around the crater.

Many were the acts of gallantry and heroism displayed on the battleground of the Anzio Beachhead on 29 February 1944. Private First Class Charles Siwek, a Brown-ing automatic rifleman of Company "L", engaged six-enemy in a skirmish which was the prelude to the big attack. Wounded himself, he inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy as he emptied several magazines of ammunition with rapid fire. Private First Class Gilbert H. Stein, of Company "G", relayed vital intelligence to Captain Edgar H. Poinsett which enabled friendly artillery and mortars to place accurate concentrations on the enemy. When Second Lieutenant Clarence J. Grant, of Company "E", at early dawn observed that two machine gunners were seriously wounded he manned their gun and killed 32 enemy and effected the capture of 26 others.



Three of 34 "Cotton Balers" killed in action on 29 February 1944 were left to right: Pvt. Clarence J. LaPierre, Co. "K"; Pfc. John D. Perkins, Co. "K", and Pvt. Raymond W. Ritter, Co. "F".

and infantry and on the Third Battalion right flank. Company "C" under the command of Captain William B. Stewart attacked up the Fosso della Crocetta on the left of the Second Battalion and one platoon of Company "F" filled in the gap between Companies "E" and "G". A house occupied by some enemy was leveled to the ground by tank fire of the 751st Tank Battalion. The Third Battalion directed artillery on a group of two hundred enemy forming in front of the Second Battalion and killed many Germans.

In spite of the fierce resistance displayed by the "Cotton Balermen" the enemy continued equally fierce attacks throughout the day. In some cases platoon positions were overrun and it seemed that the battalions would have to withdraw, but they did not. Every fresh wave of the enemy was thrown back with heavy losses to both sides as a result of the furious fighting. The Second and Third Battalions led by their great leaders, Lieutenant Colonels Everett W. Duvall and John A. Heintges performed magnificently that day.

"The attacks against the Seventh Infantry were heaviest, but nowhere did the enemy gain ground."⁴⁵ While the "Cotton Balermen" held their ground during the furious fighting and Company "C" attacked up the Fosso della Crocetta the Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry



Pvt. Roger M. Dillman, Co. "K", and 2 Lt. John C. McDaniel, Co. "G", were killed in action on 29 February 1944.

⁴⁵ "History of the Third Infantry Division"

Technical Sergeant Ole M. Martinson, of Company "E" coolly directed the fire of his platoon and personally killed fifteen enemy with fire from his sniper's rifle. Private Ralph F. Hedden, of "Easy" Company, once engaged eight Germans in a fierce duel and was badly wounded but he inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in killed and wounded. Private First Class Walter H. Boomer and Private Alexander Sosnowski, both members of the Anti-Tank Platoon of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, manned their 37mm anti-tank gun while under fire and shot it out with a German Mark IV tank and destroyed the hostile vehicle.

Technical Sergeant Floyd W. Adams, of "Fox" Company, displayed coolheadedness and contempt for personal danger while directing his men in the fire fight. Sergeant Thomas J. Strange, Jr., of the same company and missing as a result of a subsequent action, was unusually brave while directing the fire of his 60mm mortar section.

Private First Class Patrick Cullen, 81mm mortarman, and Private First Class Aubrey D. Miller, machine gunner, both of Company "H", remained steadfast at their weapons through pounding artillery concentrations and hails of machine gun fire, to send round after round into enemy positions.

Private First Class Wayne O. Cole, of Company "G", displayed such great shooting skill with a rifle and in directing other riflemen that the Germans singled him out as a leader and directed heavy fire at him which somehow missed. He killed several Germans and was responsible for the capture of about thirty-five enemy.

Although seven of his eight man patrol were killed outright and the other wounded, First Lieutenant Ralph M. Flynn, the Third Battalion S-3, adjusted friendly artillery fire by radio on nine enemy tanks and knocked out four of them.



An air photo of Le Ferriere roads junction on the Anzio Beachhead.

Private First Class Robert O. Walker, of Anti-Tank Company, killed six Germans with his rifle and covered the withdrawal of his comrade from a gun position which enemy compelled them to vacate.

Staff Sergeant Martin J. Rubicky, Private Frederick R. Drayton, Jr., Private Albert Flinner, Jr., all of "Charlie" Company; Private First Class John J. Jordan and Private First Class Vincent J. Lutterman, both of "Dog" Company; First Sergeant Budd Rice of "Easy" Company; Staff Sergeant Charles R. Bennett of "Fox" Company; Sergeant Earl P. Vowell of "George" Company; Technician Fifth Grade Joseph Medeiros of "Howe" Company; Private First Class Mays G. Overton of "Item" Company; Private First Class Albert L. Nel-

son, Private First Class Clarence E. Rall and Private Dane V. Caulkins all of "King" Company; Technical Sergeant Owen L. Jeffs and Sergeant Morris F. Snyder both of "Love" Company; Technical Sergeant Matt J. Churack and Private First Class Oscar F. Fuhrman of "Mike" Company, all played important roles in stemming the enemy counter-attack.⁴⁶

Companies "G" and "K" were in continuous contact with the enemy throughout the night. An attempt to knock out enemy tanks in the vicinity of Bridge 5 failed. A First Battalion mortar squad fired flares while tank destroyers attached to the 15th Infantry fired on the enemy tanks, but no hits were scored as visibility was poor.

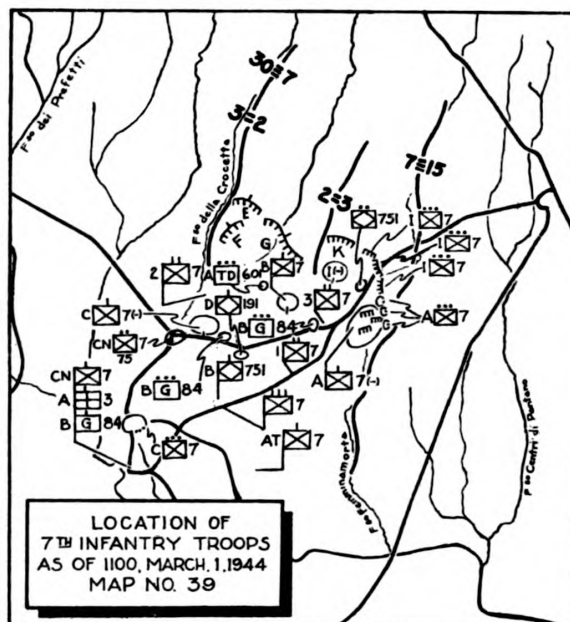
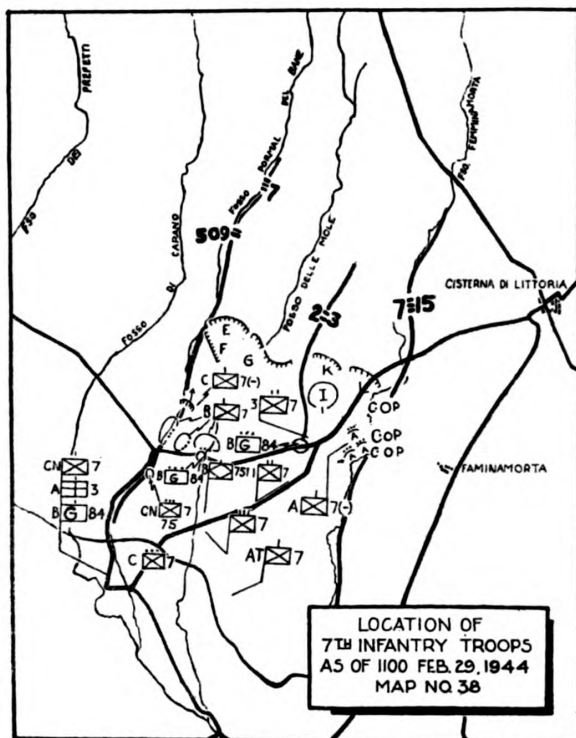
At 0325, 1 March enemy tanks and Infantry hit Company "K" again and enemy Infantry were reported infiltrating through Company "L" positions. First Lieutenant Jerry C. Conrad, commanding "I", sent a platoon to assist "Love" Company. The Company "K" situation cleared up for a spell but at 0630 the enemy threw in heavy artillery concentrations and then attacked the "King" Company positions with seven tanks and numerous Infantry. Enemy were forming in front of Company "G".

The forward positions of the Second Platoon, Company "K", were overrun by the enemy. Staff Sergeant Edward A. Sobuta covered the withdrawal of his squad by drawing attention of the enemy to himself by hurling hand grenades and firing his sub-machine gun. Private First Class Albert L. Nelson crawled four hundred yards to the rear of the company command post and personally directed the fire of friendly artillery with such efficiency that three German tanks were driven into our own mine fields and shortly thereafter were put out of action. The four remaining enemy tanks were forced to withdraw. Private First Class Timothy J. Rice, also of Company "K", and Staff Sergeants William L. Bailey and Augustus Nastari, both mortar section leaders of Company "M", braved the enemy artillery, tank, machine gun and small arms fire to re-establish communication with forward observation posts. Sergeant Bernard Shapiro, of Company "L", led an attack on one of the enemy tanks, which was destroyed after the Germans had abandoned it. Private First Class Alex J. Dietz, also of "L", led a three-man group to a position which extended the right flank of his company. When eleven Germans advanced on the group, wounded one man and forced the other two to flee, Private First Class Dietz remained alone and shot it out with the enemy, killing three, routing four and capturing four. Second Lieutenant Jack B. Lehman effectively directed friendly artillery on advancing enemy.⁴⁷

The artillery and mortar fire dumped on the enemy in front of Company "K" was mainly responsible for breaking up the attack. Four enemy tanks north of Bridge 5 were knocked out by fire directed by the Third Battalion forces.

⁴⁶ Gos No. 34, 37, 39, 48, 50, 51, 76, 83, 108, 148, 163, 168, 175, 198, 226, 256, 304, 306, 316 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10, 15 & 20 Mar., 1, 2, 3 & 20 Apr., 1 May (9 June, 4 July, 8 Aug., & 31 Dec. '44; 7 & 24 June, 15 July, 20 Aug., 1 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45, 1 Lt. Flynn, 2 Lt. Grant, 1 Sgt. Rice, T/Sgts. Adams, Churack, Jeffs & Martinson, S/Sgts. Bennett & Rubicky, Sgts. Snyder, Strange & Vowell, Pfc's Boomer, Cole, Cullen, Fuhrman, Jordan, Lutterman, Miller, Nelson, Overton, Rall, Stein & Walter, Pvts. Caulkins, Drayton, Flinner, Hedden, Siwek & Sosnowski were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁷ GOs No. 37, 39, 60, 94 & 108, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 & 20 Mar., 6 Apr., 21 May & 9 June '44. Pfc Nelson was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 2 Lt. Lehman, S/Sgts. Bailey, Nastari & Sobuta, Sgt. Shapiro, Pfc Dietz & Pfc Rice were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Shortly after noon 1 March approximately two hundred Germans were seen coming toward Company "E". Several of them were waving white flags and appeared to be unarmed. However, another group approached on their right flank with no white flags and were apparently heavily armed. The situation was most mysterious, but in order not to be caught in a trap artillery fire was laid on the heavily armed group which seemed intent on attacking the Second Battalion's left flank. In short order the entire group, including those with white flags, was dispersed. Sergeant Herbert R. Davis, of Company "G", alone stopped an enemy attacking force of about twenty-five men with his machine gun, inflicting eight casualties and forcing the remainder to withdraw. Second Lieutenant Charles R. Durkee, of Company "C", attacked a pair of enemy machine guns that had killed two scouts and wounded several other members of his platoon. He knocked out one of the weapons with a hand grenade which killed two Germans and wounded three others. As he prepared to throw a second grenade a nearby sniper shot and killed him.⁴⁸

Artillery and mortars continued counter-battery fire on 2 March but supporting 81mm mortars had fired so much that their supply of ammunition ran low. The heavy mortars were then limited to thirty rounds daily

until another reserve was built up. The Air Corps bombed the enemy lines. Fourteen officers joined the Regiment as replacements on that day. The enemy concentrated on and plastered Company "E" positions with artillery and mortars as a small arms fight was going on. When all officers of his platoon became casualties, Private Malon L. Whitlow, a rifleman of "Easy" Company, took command of the platoon and courageously directed a successful defense.⁴⁹

Shortly after midnight 2-3 March 1944 enemy tanks were heard on the east side of Bridge 5 and mortars and artillery were dropped in that area. Company "K" heard tanks to its front. Nebelwerfer fire started to fall in the Third Battalion area and at 0105 Company "L" received a heavy artillery barrage. The Second Battalion reported vehicular traffic to its front. All indications were that the enemy planned another attack. The First Battalion was notified to make plans to counter-attack, and the chemical mortars of Company "B", 84th Chemical Battalion, began to interdict the roads leading into enemy territory. Patrols to the front engaged in fire fights.

At 0520 Companies "K" and "L" began receiving artillery fire, then enemy tanks and Infantry commenced advancing on Company "L". Two of the German tanks

⁴⁸ GOs No. 206 & 212, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 2 & 6 Oct. '44. 2 Lt. Durkee (posthumously) & Sgt. Davis were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁹ GO No. 185, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. '44. Pvt. Whitlow was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Seven of 35 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 1-2 March 1944 were: (1) Pfc Andy S. Barko, Co. "K"; (2) Pvt. Elwood S. Blizzard, Co. "A"; (3) 2 Lt. Charles R. Durkee, Co. "C"; (4) Pvt. Robert R. Hartman, Co. "C"; (5) Pvt. Sam T. Haskew, Co. "K"; (6) Pfc Dominick S. Ascolese, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (7) Pvt. James M. Kline, Co. "K".

succeeded in penetrating "Love" Company's positions and got behind one of the platoons. The reserve platoon of Company "I" moved to the assistance of the embattled "Love" Company. Casualties were suffered by the already weakened platoons. The Germans forced elements of Companies "L" and "I" to temporarily withdraw. At the close of the morning the Company "I" platoon attempted to regain its lost ground but failed as the fighting was severe.

Staff Sergeant Harry J. Lawlor of Company "L", accompanied by another soldier armed with "Molotov cocktails", advanced five hundred yards through the impact area of an artillery and mortar concentration toward a German Mark VI tank, which had been placed in hull defilade and was guarded by a machine gun nest and a force of dug-in riflemen. Proceeding with his suicide mission, he by-passed the German machine gun and reaching a position fifty yards from the tank, opened fire with his light machine gun in a successful effort to draw the full volume of enemy fire upon himself and thereby enable his comrade to approach the enemy vehicle undetected. He continued his hopelessly, uneven fight against the entrenched riflemen and against the tank crew while his associate threw Molotov cocktails at the tank. When the gasoline bombs failed to set the tank ablaze, Staff Sergeant Lawlor crawled to within twenty yards of the tank, hurled sticky grenades and silenced its fire while covering the withdrawal of his comrade. He was mortally wounded by fire of the enemy riflemen. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Lawlor was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

COMPANIES "A" AND "B" COUNTER-ATTACK THE ENEMY 3 MARCH

At 1330, 3 March, Companies "A" and "B" launched a counter-attack astride the Ponte Rotto road, following smoke concentrations. Company "A", advancing on the right of the road, received terrific enemy neblower fire, self-propelled, artillery, small arms and machine gun concentrations. "Able" Company became completely disorganized and withdrew to initiate a reorganization. Captain William P. Athas, who commanded the company in the attack, was killed during the action. The cover was so limited and the shelling so intense that many casualties were suffered. After nightfall Company "A", reorganized, regained the ground lost by the Company "I" platoon. Company "B" had also received heavy fire but pushed on to its objective and reconsolidated some of the lost ground. Staff Sergeant Morris Kalamanowitz, of Company "A", who was severely wounded, First Lieutenant Leslie E. Stiles, of First Battalion Headquarters and who was killed in a subsequent action, and Second Lieutenant Joseph S. Ancavage, of Cannon Company, were cited for actions performed that day.⁵⁰

The First Battalion companies were engaged throughout the night of 3-4 March. At 2150 it was reported

that thirty-three men of Company "A" were missing and that the company had but thirty effectives to fight with. The Company "L" platoon along the stream had only nineteen men left. First Lieutenant Arnold M. Reeve, of Company "L", killed ten to twelve enemy with machine gun fire from a position he manned alone for a period of three hours.⁵¹

Though the First Battalion companies absorbed some severe punishment during their counter-attacks (Company "A" had thirteen killed by mid-morning 4 March) the right flank of the Regiment was re-organized and in fair shape. Plans were made for the First Battalion to relieve the Third during the following night. At 2135 4 March the enemy threw a heavy artillery preparation at Companies "L" and "B" on the right flank in the Third Battalion sector, then followed up with a company sized Infantry attack. Due to the weakened condition of the companies the line there was thinly held and the enemy succeeded in penetrating to the houses located along the Ponte Rotto road. A bitter fight lasted until 0600, 5 March, when the houses were again in our control and the enemy driven back. Eighteen Germans were captured. Company "B", 751st Tank Battalion, lost one tank during the night's engagement. Company "E" had also been called on to repel a small enemy attack that night. Company "C" relieved Company "K" on the front line. Company "B", 84th Chemical Battalion, assisted the tank destroyers by firing smoke on Bridge 5 to mark it as a target. The tanks, tank destroyers and cannons maneuvered to better positions to assist the rifle units on the right flank of the Regiment.

After his major attempt to wipe out the Anzio Beach-head was broken by the reinforced Third Infantry Division between 29 February and 4 March 1944, the enemy resorted to defensive warfare. The Seventh Infantry in the center of the Third Division line, where the attacks were heaviest, once more had played a major role for the "Rock of the Marne" Division. With their flanks exposed and attacked fiercely the "Cotton Balermen" held their ground in the face of devastating and powerful opposition. Five officers and 105 enlisted men were killed during those days and a total of 254 members of the Regiment were wounded. Besides those already mentioned, Private First Class George R. Socie, of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Private Frank Caradonna of Company "B", and Privates Howard R. Dawson and Arthur C. Gabriel, both of the Medical Detachment, served with distinction during the period.⁵²

⁵⁰ GOs No. 121 & 294, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 June & 20 Dec. '44. 1 Lt. Stiles, 2 Lt. Ancavage & S/Sgt. Kalamanowitz were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵¹ GO No. 121, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 June '44. 1 Lt. Reeve was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵² GOs No. 37, 198, 264 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Mar. '44 & 7 June, 19 July & 17 Sept. '45. Pfc Socie & Pvts. Dawson, Caradonna & Gabriel were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Six of the 20 members of the 7th Infantry who were killed in action on 3 March 1944 were left to right: Pvt. Albert B. Cummins, Co. "L"; Pvt. James V. Glosner, Med. Det.; Pfc Donald R. Levan, Co. "I"; Pvt. Roland J. Mailhot, Co. "K"; Pvt. Fred J. Petto-grassia, Co. "I"; and Capt. William P. Athas, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.

7th INFANTRY REMAINS ON DEFENSIVE 5-28 MARCH 1944

Unable to make any headway against the Seventh United States Infantry and other units of the American Third Infantry Division on the Anzio Beachhead during his major attack of 29 February-3 March 1944, the enemy then reverted to a definite attitude of active defense. He kept outposts strongly manned and was active with both reconnaissance and combat patrols that attempted to infiltrate through the lines of the defending forces. The Allied beachhead forces had themselves been weakened by the attacks and were also content to keep up an active defense.

From 4 to 28 March the Seventh Infantry (reinforced) remained in its positions and improved them with the assistance of Company "A", 10th Combat Engineer Battalion. Much time and effort were given to the improvement of the positions by erection of wire obstacles, installation of mine fields, digging-in of towed anti-tank guns, and the establishment of alternate lines of communication. Movement was restricted to the hours of darkness with certain exceptions in the rear areas. The rifle battalions alternated at being in reserve. Contact was maintained with the enemy through patrols while the attached and supporting weapons harassed the enemy daily and nightly, as did the enemy artillery, mortars, and self-propelled guns harass the Seventh Infantry. Each day during the period from one to nine members of the Regiment were killed through the patrolling activities or enemy artillery action and about an equal number were wounded.

The engineer detail, working in front of the Third Battalion the night of 5-6 March, was harassed by active enemy patrols. Some wire and obstacles were installed but after sustaining four casualties the detail was driven from its work by the enemy. Long range enemy machine gun fire was received by Companies "E" and "F" during the day of 6 March and six enemy tanks pulled up on the left of Company "C" but no flare-up occurred.

During the night of 6-7 March, Company "G" shot up an enemy patrol attempting to come down the Fosso della Mole. Company "A" absorbed some heavy shelling by enemy artillery and small arms fire flared up on the Second Battalion front. One White Battalion patrol was fired on by First Battalion troops and suffered four casualties. Regimental Headquarters and Service Companies furnished personnel for the motorized parachute patrol. The First Battalion relieved the Third Battalion during the night and covered all of the sector formerly held by the two battalions. The Blue Battalion assembled in reserve. The attached tank destroyers knocked out two enemy vehicles in front of Company "G" early on the 7th, while enemy artillery scored a direct hit on one of Anti-Tank Company's 57mm guns. The Third Battalion in reserve reported its strength as 30 officers and 486 enlisted men; 14 new officers joined the Regiment on that day.

Comparatively speaking, the situation on the Seventh Infantry front was quiet during daylight hours of 8 March with the enemy intermittently shelling the area. The German artillery scored hits on the Seventh Infantry ammunition dumps in and near the castle of Campomorto. Private First Class Ernest J. Vaillancourt displayed heroism while extinguishing blazes caused by the shelling.⁵³ Company "L" moved to a rest camp in the rear areas of the beachhead. Prisoners of war were priced at a premium those days. Third Division Headquarters asked that a special effort be made to capture a German from our front. There was some enemy activity in the 180th Infantry sector to our left and VI Corps Headquarters

believed the enemy might have something planned for the Seventh Infantry front as well. The battalions were notified and as an inducement or incentive, which probably the "dogfaces" considered not very attractive at all, it was promised that any patrol which captured a German that night would get a one-grade increase in rank for each member participating up to a technical sergeant. In



Five of 27 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 4 March 1944 were: Top row, left to right, Pvt. Nathan H. Brin, Co. "E"; 1/Sgt. Omer S. Byers, Co. "L"; S/Sgt. Arthur B. Berkshire, Co. "C"; Bottom row, left to right: Pvt. Archie Riggsbee, Co. "I", and 2 Lt. Charles W. VanScoyoc, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.

spite of the "inducement" no prisoner of war was brought in that night. The comparative quietness was broken at 2300 when a small enemy force attacked Company "B", and Company "C" reported tanks to its front. Artillery, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire were poured on the enemy who were dispersed. By 0100, 9 March the situation had cleared and all enemy were repulsed.

An ambush patrol from Company "F" went deep into enemy-held territory the night of 11-12 March and observed several Germans meeting in a centralized locality where they appeared to be changing guard. By stealth, three members advanced to a canvas-covered dug out. Slowly and carefully the leader pulled back the canvas and saw six Germans sleeping. It was their intention of making the sextet their prisoners, but the Browning Automatic Rifleman became excited and fired his weapon into the hole. Of a necessity the others opened fire and threw hand grenades. The fire awakened Germans at nearby posts and forced the patrol to withdraw to the safety of its own lines.

In the early hours of 13 March a patrol from Company "A" ran into serious trouble. The leader, Second Lieutenant Chauncy L. White, Jr., was killed, one man wounded and five were missing as a result of the action.

Though the actions of those nights and days may seem to some to have been minor, they nevertheless were of vital importance and the actions of many individuals were outstanding. Actions of Technical Sergeant Arthur J. Blackwood of Company "H", Private First Class Frank J. Doris of Company "E", Private First Class Maurice L. Williams and Private First Class Joe Wilson,

⁵³ GO No. 158, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '44. Pfc Vaillancourt was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

LOCATION OF
7TH INFANTRY TROOPS
AS OF 1100 MARCH 5 1944
MAP NO. 40

The month of March 1944 saw many changes in various commands of the Regiment. On the 4th Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges relinquished command of the Third Battalion to Major Clayton C. Thobro and went to the Third Division G-3 Section.

The new commanding officer of the Regiment had seen much service and had advanced from the grade of private. Born on 26 November 1894 in Galatia, Illinois, he received his early education in Missouri grade schools. At the age of nineteen he enlisted in the regular army and began his long military career on 12 January 1914 at Jefferson Barracks, then went to Hawaii where he served with the Second Infantry, advancing to the grade of sergeant. He obtained a reserve commission and was called to active officer duty direct from the enlisted ranks on 8 September 1917 and served with the 25th Infantry until 1923. In 1920 he had received a regular commission. From 1923 to 1927 he served as an instructor with the Louisiana National Guard. In 1928 he graduated from the Army Tank School and then served as the commanding officer of the First Tank Company, First Division. For five years from 1931 to 1936 he served with the 28th Infantry and then spent some time serving in the Philippines.

rifle shooting, being an expert with rifle. In 1922 and 1923 he fired on the Infantry Team in the National Matches, the latter year placing second in the National Individual Rifle Match. From 1924 to 1934 he coached various teams which competed and in 1935 and 1936 he was captain of the Infantry Rifle and Pistol Team.

A black and white photograph of a man standing outdoors in a field. He is wearing a dark, long-sleeved shirt, dark trousers, and dark boots. He has his hands on his hips and is looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a fence.

On 13 March Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, III, a true "Cotton Baler", joined the Regiment. He was born with the Seventh Infantry at Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan, on 31 August 1907, as his father then a captain in the regular Army served as adjutant of the Regiment. Lieutenant Colonel Toffey spent practically

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all his life with the Army in one way or another and had started his formal military career by attending Honolulu Military Academy. Later he graduated from Cornell University where he was active in the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. In 1941 he attended the Infantry School and in 1942 the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He made the invasion of

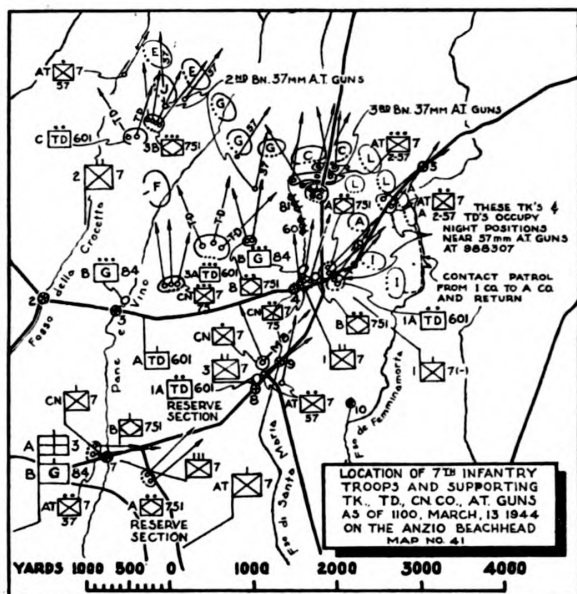
William A. Weitzel joined the Regiment on 26 March and assumed command of the Third Battalion to be the third commander of that unit during the month.

SEVENTH INFANTRY BATTLE PATROL COMES INTO BEING

By the middle of March a static condition existed on the front and position warfare developed accompanied by nightly reconnaissance and combat patrolling. Being on the defensive, troops lived for long periods of time, without relief, in wet muddy foxholes, existing on cold rations. It was the Italian rainy season and the men suffered intensely from exposure to the elements, many of them developing "trench foot" and diseases of the respiratory system. Indiscriminately and haphazardly patrols of every type and description were selected and sent out. All too often plans miscarried as orders were briefed too hastily and were not understood. The men had scanty knowledge of the terrain to be covered and were not acquainted with each other. Fatigue and exposure numbed the sensory perceptions of the men.

In order to alleviate conditions and to increase the effectiveness of its intelligence work, upon the suggestion and under the guidance of Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, III, the Regiment on 19 March organized a body of volunteers known as the Battle Patrol. Four officers and forty-five enlisted men commenced a short period of training in the vicinity of Service Company. Captain Frank Petruzel of Company "K" was in charge of preliminary training. First Lieutenant William K. Dieleman, a rifle company veteran who had won his commission on the battlefield, became commanding officer of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, which was organized along the following lines: forty-five enlisted men were divided into three groups each led by an officer. Each group was further subdivided into three five-man teams, the first for reconnaissance, the second for assault and the third to put down a base of fire. The teams were to be led by sergeants and being small compact groups, they would be well coordinated and controlled.

The members of the Battle Patrol were to have the advantage of hot meals, dry clothing and a comfortable place to rest and sleep so their mental and physical condition would be greatly enhanced. The Battle Patrol was



North Africa as the commanding officer Third Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division and fought through the African campaigns until wounded at Maknasse, Tunisia, on 23 March 1943. After discharge from a hospital he fought through the Sicilian Campaign, then transferred to the Third Division in September 1943 and commanded the Second Battalion, 15th Infantry through the Southern Italy Campaign and the Anzio fighting. He assumed the duties of executive officer and, as fate would have it, he was to be killed in action serving with the famous regiment with which he was born.

Also on 13 March 1944 the able Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour returned to the Regiment and once more assumed command of the First Battalion. Major Frank C. Sinsel served as his executive officer for a short period before returning home to the U. S. A. on rotation. Major Lloyd B. Ramsay was assigned to the command of the Third Battalion and Major Clayton C. Thobro remained with that unit as the second in command. Two other officers who returned from hospitals at this time were Captains Kenneth W. Wallace and Irving R.



Pvt. Elmo Bertram, left, of Co. "L", and S/Sgt. Robert F. Holtzman, right, of Co. "I", were killed in action on 5 March 1944.



First Lieutenant William K. Dieleman joined the 7th Infantry as a squad leader on 7 April 1941. He advanced to platoon sergeant and made the Fedala landings and the invasion of Sicily with Company "C". He received a battle field commission on 11 September 1943 and served with distinction in the Naples-Foggia campaign and on the Anzio Beachhead. On 18 March 1944 he was selected to be the first commander of the Regimental Battle Patrol. Known for his ability and courage he was called "Fighting William K. Dieleman".

Wyeth. Captain Wallace replaced Captain Robert L. Crozier, of Company "A", who was wounded and evacuated. Captain Wyeth assumed command of Company "B" but remained only three days when he was wounded again and evacuated. Lieutenant Colonel

to supplement routine patrols of the rifle companies and battalions, and not supplant them. All personnel were to be equipped and trained in the use of knives, grenades, bayonets, and the latest combat weapons. A patrol was to be sent out nightly, alternating between the three groups, thus providing the other two with ample rest and

sufficient time in which to prepare and plan for their forthcoming operational patrols or limited objective attacks. Nearly all missions were to be known at least thirty-six hours in advance, to allow plenty of time for briefing, planning, discussion and study of maps and aerial photographs. Every mission was to be thoroughly



2 Lt. Chauncey L. White, left, of Co. "A", and 1 Lt. Walter A. Klausman, of Co. "K", were killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead during March 1944.

reconnoitered in advance. Thus a highly trained, organized, closely-knit group of men motivated by a superb "esprit de corps", specifically trained, and whose sole function was to patrol, came into being and produced superior results.

The military situation at the time did not permit the Battle Patrol to undergo a lengthy period of training and indoctrination as a unit before it was put to the iron test. On the night of 25-26 March, the Battle Patrol was ordered to attack, seize House "Y", an important terrain feature west of Ponte Rotto, and hold it until relieved by a holding force from Company "K". The house had changed hands a dozen times and was the scene of many fierce skirmishes. It was employed as an enemy observation post and was a troublesome sore-spot, being situated on the crest of a ground rise which permitted enemy tanks to emerge suddenly from defilade, fire a number of rounds at our lines only three hundred yards away and then take cover before friendly fire could adjust on them.

Acting on information secured by reconnaissance the night before, a group of fifteen men from the Battle



Pvt. Robert H. Lussy, left, of Co. "F", and Pvt. Norman A. Hebert, of Co. "G", were killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead during March and April 1944.

Patrol crawled from our front lines to the house. At 0200 hours 26 March Staff Sergeant Eric F. Leitner crept within thirty-five yards of the objective and surprised an enemy machine gun nest, dispatched one enemy, captured

a second and assisted in killing three others as they attempted to escape. Sergeant William S. Cucciniello materially assisted in the capture of the objective. Staff Sergeant Leitner shouted out false orders in German which confused the enemy soldiers. Though outnumbered the Battle Patrol group caused the enemy to retreat.⁵⁵

At daybreak the enemy counter-attacked the Battle Patrol and the holding force of Company "K" and recaptured House "Y". Five members of an outpost were wounded. Staff Sergeant Eric F. Leitner again displayed gallantry in action. He covered the evacuation of the five wounded members and led four men across three hundred yards of exposed, bare terrain on the double, at the same time wounding an enemy who was firing point blank at him. Then in a duel, using his M-1 against a machine gunner and an enemy armed with a machine pistol who were firing at him from ranges of fifty and thirty yards respectively, he killed the man with the machine pistol, silenced the machine gun, and enabled the successful evacuation of the wounded.⁵⁶

Two officers and three enlisted men of Company "K" were wounded in the dawn counter-attack by the enemy. The area was smoked to cover the evacuation of the Battle Patrol and Company "K" casualties. As the enemy had regained House "Y" the night's sortie failed but the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol had passed its initial test by giving an excellent account of itself.

135th INFANTRY OF 34th INFANTRY DIVISION RELIEVES 7th INFANTRY

The 135th Infantry Regiment of the 34th Infantry Division, which reinforced the beachhead forces, commenced the relief of the Seventh Infantry on the line the night of 26-27 March and completed the work at 0400, 28 March 1944.

The Regiment assembled in the vicinity of Pineta de Tre Astura southeast of Nettuno which was to become known as "The Pines." The remaining days in March were spent in improving the bivouac area and digging living and working quarters deep into the ground with coverings of at least twelve inches of earth, for the Germans were well aware of the position and strafed and shelled it regularly.

From 0200 hours 22 January 1944 to 0400 hours 28 March 1944 the "Cotton Baler" Regiment had spent an unbroken string of sixty-seven days in the line, the longest stretch the Regiment had fought, up to that time in the Second World War. Fifty percent of the officers and forty-two percent of the enlisted men who made the landing on 22 January were with the Regiment on 31 March.⁵⁷ Four hundred twenty-eight "Cotton Balermen" had given their lives to their country's cause during the period.

On 31 March Captain Jack M. Duncan left the Regiment and was assigned to the Third Infantry Division G-3 Section. Major Clayton C. Thobro assumed the duties of Regimental S-3.

⁵⁵ GOs No. 91 & 94, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 & 21 May '44. S/Sgt. Leitner & Sgt. Cucciniello were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁶ GO No. 91, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 May '44. S/Sgt. Leitner was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁷ Report of Operations for 1-31 March 1944, Hqrs. 7th Infantry, 4 April 1944, p. 2.

Twelve Days at "The Pines" and Seventeen Days In the Line

During the period 1-12 April 1944, the Regiment was in VI Corps Reserve and located in "The Pines". Training was conducted in combat and known distance firing, night problems involving limited objective attacks and rapid reorganization. Problems for the rifle squad and platoon in the attack were stressed. Anti-tank and anti-personnel mine laying and removal, reduction of pill boxes and bunkers, the laying of tactical wire and the training of snipers were subjects that drew much attention. Special instruction for rifle company personnel in radio and wire technique, and the use of flame throwers was given. All the usual Infantry subjects were covered. Housekeeping for foxholes, military courtesy and discipline were also stressed. Beach defenses were manned continuously.

7th INFANTRY RETURNS TO THE FRONT

On 11 April 1944 orders were issued for the Seventh Infantry to relieve the 179th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division on the line. The relief was conducted in an orderly manner by the three battalions, one battalion each night commencing the night of 12-13 April when the Third Battalion went into the line. The First Battalion followed the night of 13-14 April. The relief was completed without incident at 150050b by the Second Battalion which started the new combat period in Regimental reserve.

The 6th Gordons (British) and later the 1st Loyals (British) were on the left flank and the 30th Infantry was on the right of the Regiment during the period 13-29 April 1944. Company "B" and one platoon of Company "C", 83rd Chemical Battalion, were attached to the Regiment during the period while the 160th Field

Baler" positions. In the right half was Cle Torre di Padiglione, a small clump of buildings. The Fosso delle Canuce, Fosso del Lescione, and Fosso della Ficocchia joined the Fosso Spaccasassi just west of the little settlement. The railway bed cut diagonally through the Seventh Infantry sector.

During the seventeen days that the Seventh Infantry spent in the lines during the month of April 1944, enemy operations remained strictly defensive, except for limited objective attacks in which they attempted to retake critical positions which the Seventh Infantry had taken. As a result of the increased activity in the sector of the Regiment, their patrolling was greater and on four days there was marked increase in the use of their artillery.

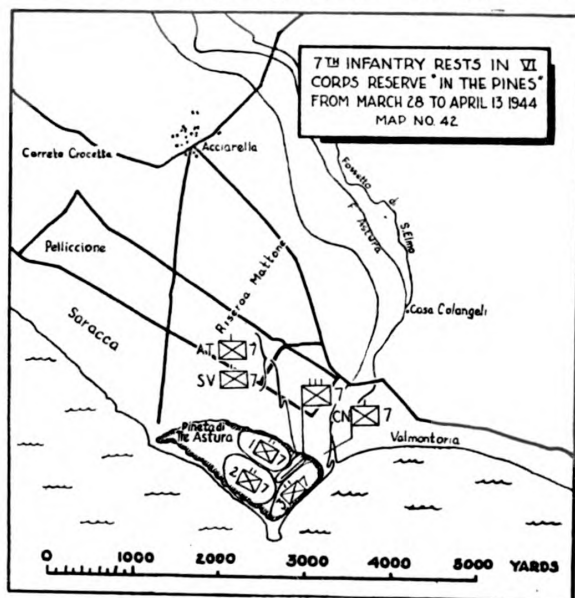
Since the first relief of the Seventh Infantry on 28 March and up to 12 April, when it went back into the lines, the over-all pattern of the enemy activity did not change, nor did his order of battle change to any great extent. He continued construction and organization of a strong defensive line generally one thousand to fifteen hundred yards beyond the furthest outposts of the Regiment. He occupied houses organized as strong points, utilized mines, wire, semi-fortified machine gun posts and dug-in rifle pits. Artillery of light, medium and heavy calibres were used. His attention was centered on the Padiglione road junction, southwest of the town by the same name. Enemy patrolling was not aggressive, nor did he deliver any attacks, even of small size.

The enemy used the road net Albano-Velletri-Carroccio and the extensive secondary net, particularly along the Albano-Carroccio route for supply and administrative purposes. Supply installations, bivouac areas and command posts of larger units were located principally north of the railroad which passes through Campoleone, and south of Genzano. The enemy made no movement or concentration of troops which would indicate any change in his attitude or activity.

It was expected that improvement in weather and drying out of the terrain would work to the disadvantage of the enemy. Our superiority in armor and aircraft would be abetted by clear weather, dry ground and longer hours of daylight; thus making enemy operations more difficult and costly, while it would be easier for our troops to take the offensive. The change was expected to be gradual, for April was still to be a wet month.

Since the enemy succeeded in stopping the attack at Cassino, at least temporarily, he was expected to continue the strong defense there. At the same time any large scale attacks against the positions held by the Allied Forces would prove so costly to the enemy that he was not likely to attempt anything more than limited objective attacks or small scale efforts to reduce and occupy forward positions. This fit in well with a picture of prolonged defensive activity on the part of the foe, coupled as it was by the absence of any large scale troop movements or build up of artillery which usually preceded a major offensive action.

During the period 15-18 April 1944 the Regiment remained in defensive positions with the First and Third Battalions on the line and the Second Battalion in Regimental reserve. Defensive positions were improved and contact was maintained with the enemy. Outposts were maintained during the hours of darkness and withdrawn during daylight. The Battle Patrol and companies oper-



Artillery Battalion, Company "C", 191st Tank Battalion, and Company "B", 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion, gave direct support to the "Cotton Baler" troops.

The area occupied by the Seventh Infantry was wooded in the left half and cut by draws affording the enemy good opportunity for infiltration into the "Cotton

"C" reconnoitered the windmill the night of 18-19 April and found that the concertina wire there was booby trapped. Machine gun, small arms and tank fire was received. Upon returning the patrol was fired on by friendly forces and three members wounded. Another Company "C" patrol observed seven enemy. Numerous flares were fired in front of the First Battalion's sector that night.

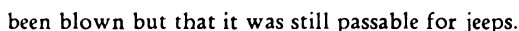
OPERATION "MR. JONES"

On 18 April Lieutenant Colonel O'Mohundro issued instructions for an operation which was known as "Mr. Jones" and involved Companies "G" and "K", the Battle Patrol and a platoon of Company "L". The mission for the operation was to secure and hold the key area "X", which included the stream junctions of Fosso Leschione and Fosso delle Vallicellette, and to advance the front lines generally to the line Fosso Leschione on the northeast and to Fosso delle Vallicellette on the northwest.

For the following night the real action was to take place. The Battle Patrol was scheduled to leave its area at 2030 to seize and secure Area "X" for occupation by Company "K" minus one platoon. The Patrol was to withdraw only on order of the Third Battalion commander and after the "King" Company elements had moved up from Area "Y". Company "G" was to move up and occupy the spot to be vacated by "K". The "King" Company platoon in support of Company "I" was to seize, secure and occupy area "Z" while the support platoon of Company "L" was to do the same with Area "A". The artillery, chemical mortars and 81mm mortars planned fires to be delivered on call. The Commanding Officer ordered that all units be especially security minded. All messages sent during the operation were to be by pre-arranged code words to be memorized by the leaders concerned. It was imperative that the enemy get no inkling of the plan. Stealth was to be used until a fire fight should start; then, to insure success, all men were to display the old "Cotton Baler" offensive spirit and fight.

The preliminary moves of the first night were conducted without incident but the second night the Battle Patrol became engaged with a strong enemy force and did not capture Area "X".

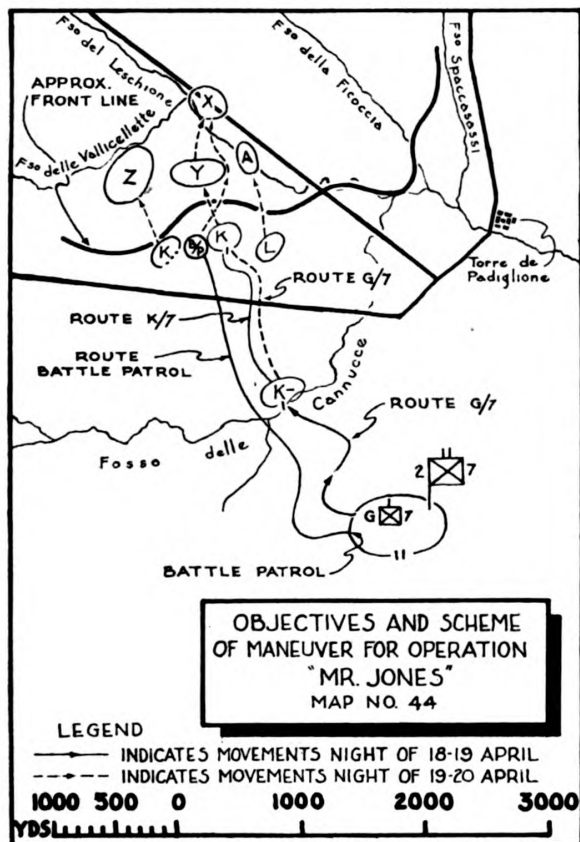
The Battle Patrol moved out of its area in back of Company "G" and upon reaching the vicinity of the railroad, a large group of enemy troops was observed moving toward it. Though the enemy had complete control of the area from the woods to the north and only a few shell holes provided cover for the Battle Patrol on the flat terrain, First Lieutenant William K. Dieleman, without hesitation, committed his men against the enemy. A savage fire fight at the closest range broke out. In the darkness one group of the Battle Patrol was almost



The First Battalion outpost on the Fosso del Leschione east of the windmill consisted of one platoon of Company "C" reinforced with a section of light machine guns and one 60mm mortar. A patrol from Company

completely encircled by the enemy troops. In fact, in one instance, a German unwittingly stepped upon the hand of a member of the Patrol. With ammunition dwindling, outnumbered by a force five times as strong which was reinforced with machine guns, the Battle Patrol broke contact to effect a reorganization.

During the three hours of battle, the Battle Patrol captured six prisoners, killed sixteen and inflicted at least thirty casualties upon the enemy; at a cost of one man killed and another wounded. Upon return to friendly lines, artillery and mortar fire was called for and laid down on the scene of the fight.



The same night a twenty-four man patrol from Company "C" contacted an enemy patrol, estimated to be of at least twenty men, when it was about fifty yards from the windmill. It engaged the enemy in a fire fight forcing the foe to withdraw, with the combat patrol in close pursuit, until the enemy reached some of their dug-in positions 400 yards to the left, where they were supported by two machine pistols and other riflemen. In utter disregard for its own safety, the patrol continued the fight until all of the ammunition was exhausted. It then withdrew and upon receiving a new supply of ammunition returned to re-engage the foe. The enemy, however, had withdrawn from the positions and the patrol continued west until it was about 600 yards from the windmill, where it was halted by a machine gun emplacement and a strong force of enemy.

An eight man patrol from Company "B" moved out for the windmill, where it intended to remain until daylight to ambush any of the enemy who would be vacating the position at the time. However, it ran into an estimated platoon of Germans. A fire fight ensued with the patrol expending its ammunition. Upon replenishing

the same, it returned only to be forced to withdraw because of excessive enemy artillery fire.

During the daylight hours on 20 April, contact was maintained with the enemy. After dark and until daylight of the 21st, the Seventh Infantry successfully extended its lines to the right of the railroad bed and east of Padiglione. The enemy became apprehensive over the situation and fired many flares and increased the use of his artillery. Shortly before daybreak a formation of enemy planes passed over the Regiment dropping flares and propaganda leaflets. Two bombs were dropped in the vicinity of the Command Post of Anti-Tank Company, causing no damage. The Seventh Infantry held and consolidated all of its positions and started to wire the front lines so that the enemy would be kept out of hand grenade range. All of the tactical wire was covered by automatic weapons sighted to fire along the enemy side of the wire. Cannon Company fired twenty-five rounds at a house on the road to the east of Aprilia, scoring fifteen direct hits, and successfully dispersed a large number of enemy personnel in the vicinity. Other targets of opportunity were also fired on. The 10th Engineers began preparations to install wire, but because of the extremely heavy enemy harassing fire, were unable to do so.

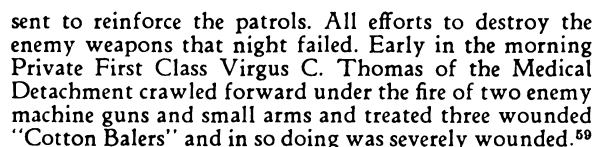
The night of 20-21 April two squads of Company "E" furnished local security for two tanks of the 191st Tank Battalion. Company "E", minus the two squads, moved over behind the First Battalion along the Fosso Spaccasassi. Company "C" (minus one platoon), Company "I" and the right platoon of Company "L" maneuvered to new positions. The Company "L" platoon encountered an enemy patrol and a small fight resulted with one of the enemy getting killed. The Battle Patrol was attached to Company "I" during the night, until 0400 when it moved to the vicinity of the Second Battalion.

On 21 April near Padiglione First Lieutenant James H. McCracken of Company "K" left the cover of his command post during an artillery concentration to adjust friendly artillery fire on an enemy mortar battery. While others were in their foxholes, First Lieutenant McCracken crawled one hundred yards forward over the flat and exposed terrain and silenced the mortar battery in thirty minutes, during which time he was the direct target at seventy-five yards range, of machine gun and rifle fire that missed him by inches. Approximately one hour later,



An air photo of some of the flatland of the Anzio Beachhead. Isola Bella is in the foreground and Cisterna di Littoria is in the background.

Four enemy machine guns located themselves between Companies "K" and "L" during the night of 21-22 April. Three combat patrols were sent out to engage the enemy weapons and later an additional squad was



Lieutenant Colonel Arthur J. Smith, Jr., replaced Lieutenant Colonel William A. Weitzel as the commanding officer of the Third Battalion on 22 April 1944.

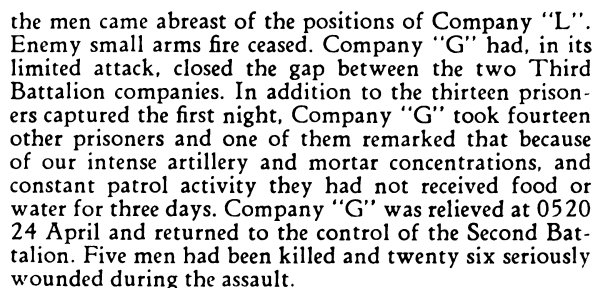
Under the command of Captain Edgar H. Poinsett, Company "G", supported by four tanks of the 191st Tank Battalion, conducted a successful, limited attack on enemy positions west of Torre di Padiglione, north of the railway bed. Companies "K" and "L" of the Third Battalion supported the attack by fire.

Preceded by a heavy artillery preparation, the attack jumped off at 2200 hours 22 April. Creeping and crawling over the barren muddy ground, the company was but three hundred yards from its objective two hours later, when it was forced to call for supporting fire from the tanks, which was delivered effectively until the tanks exhausted their ammunition and had to withdraw. At 0100 hours on 23 April, less than one hundred yards

Captain Edgar H. Poinsett abandoned his cover in the face of heavy automatic fire at one hundred yards range and took up an exposed position to direct the attack of his company upon the important enemy position. When his two assault platoons lost contact with each other, Captain Poinsett ran forward twenty-five yards to a knoll, and coordinated the attack by means of his radio. Although he was the direct target of enemy automatic and grenade fire which tore up the earth around him, Captain Poinsett remained at his elevated and exposed position and guided his troops forward to within fifty yards of the enemy.

Shortly after daylight an enemy strongpoint was taken with thirteen prisoners, two dozen machine guns and machine pistols, and a large quantity of other arms. Company "G" continued its limited attack on the 23rd to clear the enemy from between the positions of Companies "K" and "L".

Heavy mortar fire fell on the "George" Company men as they mopped up, but the enemy pieces were quickly located and silenced. A smoke screen was laid down by the 83rd Chemical Battalion to aid the advance. Finally



became distinguished in action during the attack. Private
58 GO No. 161, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '44. 1 Lt. McCracken
was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁹ GO No. 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Nov. '44. Pfc Thomas was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Also during the attack Private First Class Theodore F. Thompson of the Medical Detachment suffered wounds while treating other wounded. First Lieutenant John S. Raney of Company "M" and Private First Class Thomas J. Werbie of Company "L", both of whom were killed in subsequent actions, rendered valuable assistance to Company "G". First Lieutenant Raney directed machine gun fire and adjusted the fire of friendly mortars. Private First Class Werbie killed five Germans with rifle fire and three with hand grenade fire. Staff Sergeant Herbert H. Longcrier of Third Battalion Headquarters entered a booby-trapped enemy minefield in which four men had been killed and six wounded and disarmed twelve teller mines while under the direct fire of enemy machine guns.⁹⁰

The night of 23-24 April saw the capture of a small but very important objective which had been a target and objective by various units for quite some time. The windmill, an object usually associated with peaceful rural scenes, was here the Font le Campo dei Pesci, northwest of Cle Panfilo in Italy, the object of many furious battles and skirmishes. The enemy had used it for weeks as an outpost and the Allies had tried many times to take it without success.

The Battle Patrol was finally relieved at the windmill and withdrew. At the request of the Commanding General, the windmill was made a part of the main line of resistance. The outpost in its vicinity thereafter consisted of one officer, eight riflemen and a section of light machine guns.

April 1944, Private First Class Forrest W. Hendrix of Company "C" was chiefly responsible for the defeat of a fifteen-man enemy combat patrol that crept within twenty-five yards of his platoon's outpost position near Torre Di Padiglione.⁶²

During the afternoon of 25 April, three enemy appeared suddenly in front of the Third Battalion. As they ran forward, they yelled "Kamerad." Seventh Infantry troops fired on them and some men were sent out to kill or capture them. After a search by the patrol from Company "I" no bodies were found, although an enemy machine gun was brought back.

LOCATION OF
7TH INFANTRY TROOPS
AS OF 100 APRIL 28 1944
MAP NO 47

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 YARDS

The Seventh Infantry remained in position on the 27th and 28th, maintained contact with the enemy, conducted patrols and continued to improve its defenses. On

⁶² GO No. 134, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 June '44. Pfc Hendrix was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

the 27th enemy elements displaying a Red Cross flag were fired on by our troops when they advanced to within two hundred yards of the windmill and the enemy returned the fire. The reason for such conduct was that the enemy were believed to be using trickery.

In addition to those already named as having been cited for actions performed during April 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead Staff Sergeant Arthur E. Cuny of Company "D", Private First Class Raymond C. Uschhold of Company "B", Private Alfonso M. Hernandez of Company "G" and Private Michael J. Valek of Company "B" were commended.⁶³

GERMANS TRY PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE ON 7th INFANTRY TO NO AVAIL

After unsuccessful attempts to drive the Seventh Infantry and the other American and British units on the Anzio Beachhead into the sea the Germans tried their

hand at psychological warfare and fired battle field propaganda leaflets at the defending troops by means of special artillery or mortar projectiles and occasionally dropped some by airplane. Daily broadcasts were made by "Axis Sally" over "Jerry's" radio and occasionally loud speakers were brought to the front lines themselves and broadcasts were made to the Allied troops. The aim of the program was to discourage the defending troops, to split the Allies and destroy the soldier's faith in the home front, his country, officers and even his girl friends. The Jews and Wall Street barons were favorite targets and "Rich man's war, poor man's fight" was a favorite slogan. Except in a few cases probably the propaganda had little effect on the morale of individual soldiers and it had practically no effect on the morale of the Beachhead forces as a whole. A few of the leaflets are here reproduced.

⁶³ GOs No. 215, 59, 306 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Oct. '44 & 23 Feb., 20 Rug. & 4 Oct. '45, S/Sgt. Cuny, Pfc Hernandez & Uschhold & Pvt. Valek were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



THE MOMENT SHE DREADED

Forgotten are the days when shopgirl Joan Hopkins was still selling ribbons in a 5 and 10 cts. store in New York City. As private secretary to sleek Sam Levy, big money maker in the war business, she was to be a sugar daddy's darling.

Sam didn't have any cash when he got started, and he doesn't like to be reminded of his early days on the lower East Side. The war was just the right thing for him. He made many other home-warriors he made, the grade going up through and growing fat on the sacrifices of those young American boys fighting on foreign battlefields.

At heart Joan is not a bad woman. For over two years she had not seen her fiancé, clean-cut Bob Harrison, whom she saved for very much. Bob was shipped to Europe to fight for the cause of Sam Levy and his kind.

Two years is a long time for any girl.

For more than half a year she had not heard from Bob. He seemed to be among the missing.

Some sunny afternoon, however, just when Joan and Sam were stepping out of fashionable Benson's shop on Fifth Avenue, she was struck speechless by the sight of a man in uniform.

It was a rude awakening for her. And it was also a dreadful blow to Bob, for it was her who suddenly stood opposite her - an ex-lover, now her enemy.

Two lives - lost to one another forever.

Look for the other pictures of this series.



SAM KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS

Two years ago, comely Joan Hopkins was still a salesgirl behind the ribbon counter in a New York 5 & 10 cts. store getting 12 dollars a week.

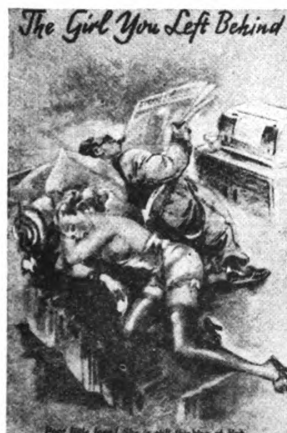
To-day she is pulling down 60 bucks as the private secretary to Sam Levy. Business is excellent and Sam is making a pile of dough on war contracts.

FOR HIM THE SLAUGHTER CAN'T LAST LONG ENOUGH.

Sam has no scruples about getting a bit intimate with Joan. And why should he have any? Tall and handsome Bob Harrison, Joan's fiancé, is on the front, thousands of miles away, fighting for guys like Sam Levy.

JOAN LOVES BOB, BUT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HE WILL COME BACK.

Look for the other pictures of this series.



THE WAY OF ALL FLESH

When pretty Joan Hopkins was still standing behind the ribbon counter of a 5 & 10 cts. store on 3rd Avenue in New York City, she never dreamed of ever seeing the interior of a duplex, Park Avenue apartment. Neither did young Bob Harrison, the man she loves. Bob was drafted and sent to the battlefields to Europe thousands of miles away from her. Through Sam Levy's Employment Agency Joan got a job as private secretary with wily Sam Levy. Sam is pulling up big money on war contracts. Should the slaughter end very soon, he would suffer an apoplectic stroke.

Now Joan knows what Bob and his pals are fighting for.

Joan always used to look up to Bob as the guiding star of her life, and she was still a good girl when she started working for Sam Levy. But she often got the blues thinking of Bob, whom she hadn't seen for over two years. Her love had an understanding heart and was always very kind to her, so kind indeed that he often invited her up to his place. He had always wanted to show her his "condominium". Besides, Sam wasn't always and every time Joan came to see him, he gave her the sweetest presents. Now, all women like beautiful and expensive things. But Sam wasn't the man you could play for a sucker. He wanted something wanted a very definitely....

Poor little Joan! She is still thinking of Bob, yet she is almost hoping that he'll never return.

Look for the other pictures of this series.





A STATEMENT
by
U.S. Brigadier General Fred H. Osborne,
Special Service Div. in the Dept. of War,
published in the "Saturday Evening Post", following the German
action into the hands of the American troops in Europe.

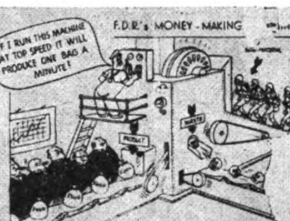
"Many Americans in uniform do not know why they are in this war. In many cases they have been asked that they do not know why they should not rather fight against the Soviet Union instead of Germany."

BUT THE GERMAN SOLDIER KNOWS WHAT HE IS FIGHTING FOR!
He is defending his country, his family and his home.

AND YOU?

WHY are you in Europe?
WHY are you in uniform instead of in your own job or business suit?
WHY are you helping along or the so-called mountain goats of Italy when death is lurking around every corner?
WHY are you stopping across battle-swept lands where thousands of dead and wounded men lie?
BECAUSE this war-movie, led by Benito Mussolini, Hitler, Goebbels, Himmler and Goebbels, has been told their message and propaganda. Now they are reaching out to you from their way.

For more see
THE RICH MAN'S WAR and THE POOR MAN'S FIGHT!



Another weapon which the Germans used against the Beachhead was a large railroad gun of very heavy calibre, probably of 370mm. and which the Americans dubbed "The Anzio Express". Daily shellings were made by the gun and on many occasions much havoc was caused in Anzio and Nettuno. One "Doggie" composed verse about the monstrous shells fired by the gun and is here quoted:

THE WHISPERING RIDERS

Come listen you Doggies, to a battle-worn tale
Of a monstrous shell with a wearisome wail.
All through the day and all through the night,
You can hear this strange Rider, that whispers in flight.
I crawl in my dugout to keep out of the way
Till the Rider has ended his ride for the day.
Then the challenge is taken, guns roar in a row
In revenge for the shelling of the Port Anzio.
And the whispering song, going the opposite way,
Are the hard-hitting Riders . . . made in U. S. A.

Lester Yost, Pfc.
Hq. Co. 3rd Bn.
7th Infantry

7th INFANTRY IS RELIEVED BY ELEMENTS 45th INFANTRY DIVISION

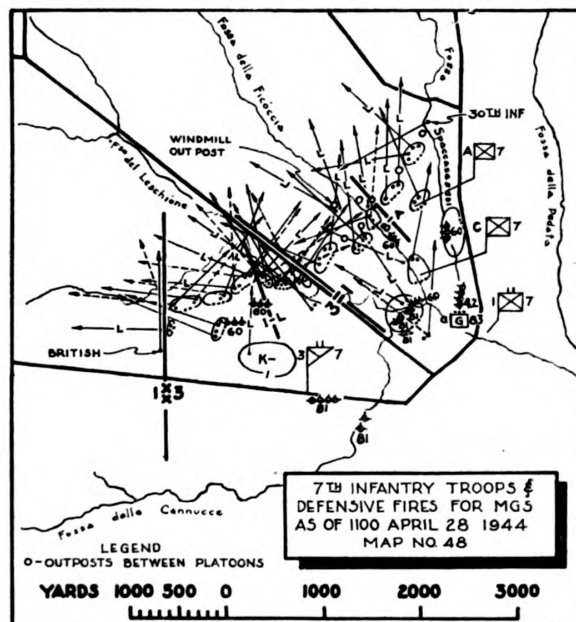
The Second and Third Battalions were relieved the night of 28-29 April by the Third Battalion 157th Infantry and the Third Battalion 179th Infantry. Two men of the 179th Infantry were wounded by enemy artillery fire during the relief. The First Battalion, Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies were relieved during the night of 29-30 April and closed into a rear area. Enemy artillery and mortar fire caused more casualties. The 179th Infantry suffered one man killed and three wounded while the Seventh Infantry had four men wounded.

On 1 May the Regiment closed into the beach area of "The Pines" once more and remained there until the

21st all the while getting ready for a return to actual combat.

PLANS FOR THE BREAKTHROUGH

In early May 1944 the VI American Corps made plans and issued orders for a general attack to break out of the Anzio Beachhead, to seize the high ground in the vicinity of Cori and be prepared to continue the attack to seize Orenta and cut Highway 6 in the vicinity of Valmontone. The Third Infantry Division, to be flanked by the First Armored Division on the left and the First Special Service Force on the right, was ordered to capture Cisterna di Littoria which had been successfully defended by the Germans during the ill-fated attacks of 30-31



January. The XII Tactical Air Command was to support the attack by neutralization of enemy artillery, destruction of concentration areas, communication centers and dumps, and disruption of enemy movements, particularly armor. The VI Corps artillery was to support the attack by prearranged fires, observed fires, counter-battery, interdiction and harassing fires. Naval gun fire support was also to be given by prearranged observed fires.

The Third Infantry Division issued orders to attack on D-Day, H-Hour, to reduce La Villa, isolate and reduce Cisterna di Littoria, seize and hold Line X-Y in its zone, to destroy all enemy in its zone and maintain contact with the First Armored Division on the left and First Special Service Force on the right.⁶⁴

All three regiments of the Division and the attachments, consisting of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, 751st Tank Battalion, 84th Chemical Battalion (less two Companies), 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion and the 24th Armored Field Regiment were assigned missions. Each of the three regiments was ordered to attack with not less than two rifle battalions.

Two phases were planned for the attack, (see Map No. 49). For the first phase the Seventh Infantry was assigned the mission of attacking in the center of the Third Division line with not more than two battalions, and seizing and holding objectives "H", "I", "J", "K" and "L." Then Cisterna di Littoria was to be attacked by the fire of all available battalion weapons from Objective "L". One battalion was to be maintained in Area II to be committed in Phase II or on Division order. All enemy in the zone were to be destroyed and contact maintained with the adjacent units. Company "B", 84th Chemical Battalion, and Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, were attached to the Regiment for the operation.

On the left of the Regiment the 30th Infantry was ordered to attack at the same time and seize Objectives "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F" and "G." The 15th Infantry on the right was ordered to seize and hold Objectives "M", "N", "O", "P" and "Q". The orders to destroy all enemy in zone, maintain contact with adjacent units and hold one battalion in reserve applied to the two sister regiments, as well as the Seventh, and they were also given attachments.

In Phase II the Seventh Infantry was to attack on Division order with the reserve battalion, and seize and hold Objectives "R" (La Villa), "S" and "T". Upon the seizure of Objective "T", the Regiment was to reorganize and with not more than one battalion hold the enemy north and west of Line "X-Y" in zone, with particular attention to defense against an enemy armored attack from the northwest. On Division order the Regiment was to attack with remaining forces and destroy enemy forces in Cisterna di Littoria. Contact was to be maintained with the First Armored Division on the left and elements of the 15th Infantry on the right, south of Cisterna di Littoria.

For the second phase the 30th Infantry was to attack in zone with its reserve battalion, seize and hold Objective "U-1", then assist by fire the attack of the Seventh Infantry on La Villa, Objective "R". Upon the seizure of Objectives "R", "S" and "T" by the Seventh Infantry, the 30th Infantry was to pass through the Seventh Infantry seize and hold objectives "U-2" and "V".

The 15th Infantry in the second phase was to attack in zone on Division order with not more than two battalions, seize and hold Objectives "W", "Z-2", and "Z-1". Upon seizure of their objectives the 15th and 30th Infantries were to reorganize and give particular

attention to defense against enemy armored attacks from the north and west along the Velletri-Cisterna di Littoria axis.

Task Force "A" to be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, Executive Officer of the Seventh Infantry, was to be ready to assemble on Division order in the vicinity of Isola Bella and be prepared to exploit any breakthrough toward Valmontone or Cori. The components of Task Force "A" were the Third Reconnaissance Troop; a company of tanks and a company of tank destroyers to be designated by the commanding officers of the 751st Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion; one battalion of field artillery (105mm Howitzers) as designated by the Commanding General, Third Infantry Division Artillery; the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion; the reserve battalion of the 15th Infantry or 30th Infantry as designated by the Command General, Third Infantry Division; and one platoon of engineers. Forty 2½-ton trucks were to be loaded with ammunition, rations and gas for a four days' operation and held available on call by the Third Infantry Division Quartermaster. Detailed orders were to be issued prior to employment of the task force.

The Third Infantry Division Artillery with the British 24th Armored Field Regiment and 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion attached was to fire preparations as directed by VI Corps Artillery and support the attack by successive pre-arranged concentrations on call.

On receipt of the Division order Lieutenant Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro and his staff perfected plans for the important part to be played by the Seventh Infantry. On 15 May the "Buffalo Plan", as it was called, was issued.⁶⁵

In accordance with the plan the Second and Third Battalions were to form the assault wave for the first phase of the attack. The Third Battalion on the left was to have attached one platoon of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion. One platoon of Company "C", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one squad of Company "A", 10th Engineers, were to be in support of the Blue Battalion. Thus reinforced, the Third Battalion was ordered to attack at a time to be announced and accomplish the following: (1) Advance in its zone of action in a column of companies and capture objectives "H", "I" and "J"; (2) Upon reaching objective "J" push strong combat patrols to seize the railroad line in its sector; (3) Use tanks with tank-infantry assault teams to reduce enemy resistance; (4) Gain and maintain contact with the 30th Infantry on the left and the Second Battalion on the right; (5) Protect the Regiment's left flank; (6) Destroy all enemy in its zone.

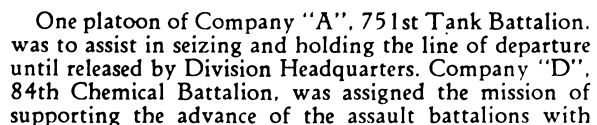
The Second Battalion on the right was to have a few extra attachments and supporting units for its missions. One 37mm gun platoon of Anti-Tank Company; one platoon of Company "A" and two light tanks of Company "D", 751st Tank Battalion, were to be attached to the battalion for the operation, with one platoon plus one tank destroyer of Company "C", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and two squads of Company "A", 10th Engineers, in support. With these attachments and supporting units the Second Battalion was directed to attack on D-Day, H-Hour and accomplish the following: (1) Advance in its zone of action with two rifle companies in the attacking echelon and capture objectives "K" and "L"; (2) Drive the enemy from Fosso dell Battagone in its sector with a special force consisting of

⁶⁴ FO No. 9 Hq. 3d Inf. Div. 9 May 1944.

⁶⁵ FO No. 8 Hq. 7th Infantry 15 May 1944.

For the initial phase the First Battalion was to remain assembled in Area II in Regimental reserve. Cannon Company was to support initially by fire the advance

In the second phase of the planned attack the First Battalion was to move to an assembly area in the vicinity



The Second Battalion in the second phase was to attack on Division order and destroy all enemy forces in Cisterna di Littoria. Its four tank-infantry assault

teams were to be used to reduce the enemy resistance on order of the battalion commander. Contact was to be maintained with adjacent units. The Third Battalion for the second phase was to pass to Regimental Reserve in the vicinity of Objective "J" and be prepared to assist the First or Second Battalion efforts on order.

Cannon Company was to initially support the advance of the First and Second Battalions by fire and on order attach one platoon of M-8 tanks to the First Battalion for defense of Line "X-Y" and a similar platoon to the Second Battalion for defense of Cisterna di Littoria. Anti-Tank Company was, on order, to attach one platoon to each the First and Third Battalions for defense against possible enemy armored attacks from the north-west.

It was known that the German 362nd and 715th Infantry Divisions were responsible for the defense of the Cisterna di Littoria sector. They were believed to be greatly understrength but had attached to them units like the 362nd Fusilier Battalion, battalions from the 9th Panzer Grenadier Regiment and the 1028th Grenadier Regiment. A battalion of *Milizia Armata* (Italian SS) was believed to be supporting the 1028th Grenadier Regiment. One battalion of the San Marco Marines was reported en route to the sector. The 725 IR, 735 IR, 715 Engineer Battalion were other components of the defending divisions.

In general reserve the enemy was believed to have the 26th Panzer Division in the Velletri-Valmontone area undergoing complete reorganization. The division had four infantry battalions all presumably brought up to a strength of four hundred men each following their terrific beating at the hands of the American Third Infantry Division in the Cisterna di Littoria sector in February and March. The 29th and 90th Panzer Grenadier Divisions each with their six battalions were believed to be in the Rome area with possibly the 555th, 556th and 612 Ost Battalions. The 162nd Turcoman Division, recently arrived in Italy from the Balkans and not highly regarded as a fighting formation, was also believed to be in the Rome area. The 103rd Reconnaissance Battalion, a unit of the 3rd Panzer Grenadier Division was reported in the Terracina-Sabaudia area. It was possible that the enemy might decide to abandon his policy of defense on the southern front and initiate a delaying action there. He might well withdraw additional divisions for employment against the beachhead forces, since his historic strategy had been to defend or even counter-attack against flank threats until his rear elements were out of danger.

The general enemy defensive plan consisted of his strongest line nearest the Third Infantry Division positions, lying generally from 300 to 1000 yards beyond the friendly line depending on the terrain features or buildings upon which it was based. The line consisted of a series of platoon positions on strong points averaging 500 yards apart, each containing four to six machine guns and covered by fire of automatic weapons in supporting positions. There were usually small outposts between the strongpoints held by squads or even smaller groups. The enemy's system of wire and anti-personnel mines was fairly complete especially in the vicinity of the strongpoints and all principal routes of tank approach were mined.

Back of the enemy's first line 300 to 500 yards were his reserve companies generally occupying dugouts closely spaced along ditches. In those reserve positions all the company's automatic weapons, totaling six or more light machine guns were set up in pits conveniently reached from the dugouts. The layout of the enemy's regimental reserve areas was inferred from a study of aerial photographs, but it was known that the enemy was making

every effort to rest and train his troops to the maximum extent. Hence the fairly dense system of weapons pits and gun positions which were found as far north as the railroad track and running 2000 to 3000 yards east of, and parallel to the Fosso di Cisterna were believed only partially occupied, while the bulk of uncommitted divisional troops were billeted in such areas as Sezze, Cori and Velletri.

In addition to the defenses described, which constituted the actual beachhead defensive zone, the enemy was known to be constructing defensive works running generally north from Littoria, and in the vicinity of Velletri. Those defenses were not manned by the 19th of May but were to be quickly occupied by reserve units at any time a particular sector was threatened.

The enemy was reported to be stressing anti-tank defense in view of the hardening terrain and the known American strength in armor. The enemy was not particularly strong in the primary anti-tank weapon, the towed gun, but he had recently equipped some of the heavy companies with 75mm Infantry guns. His artful and liberal use of teller mines was well known. The enemy was prepared to demolish culverts and bridges over ditches and to erect road blocks in defiles. The enemy's strength in tanks, especially heavy ones, and self-propelled artillery largely offset his weakness in anti-tank units. The enemy was employing special groups of "bazookamen" very effectively.

Enemy artillery had shifted generally to the western half of the Beachhead during early May. The 715th Divisional artillery was believed to be between Sezze and Cori, with tanks and self-propelled guns only in the vicinity of Littoria. The enemy's total combat tank strength was estimated at 110 Mark IVs and from 40 to 90 Mark VIs.

The terrain over which the Americans were to make their attack consisted of a gently sloping, cultivated land cut by many streams which run south from the high ground of Monte Lepini and Colli Laziali. The two key terrain features, the Colli Laziali to the northwest and Monte Lepini to the northeast, provided the enemy with excellent observation covering the entire operation. The immediate approaches to those terrain features were steep and the ground generally unsuitable for the use of armor. Though some enemy artillery was thought to fire from positions on the high ground of Colli Laziali, the difficulty of supply, necessarily restricted to poor mountain roads and trails, precluded the use of any amount of artillery in the Monte Lepini area. Movement of vehicles off the few roads was impractical and the ground not suitable for the use of armor. Culture on the rocky, brush-covered slopes was limited to olive trees.

The terrain approach to Velletri from Conca through Cisterna di Littoria followed the typical lava-flow cross-section of a gradually increasing slope as one neared the volcanic hill mass of Colli Laziali. From Conca to Cisterna di Littoria the ground was almost flat, rising only 150 feet in ten kilometers, or fifteen feet per kilometer. From Cisterna di Littoria to a point three kilometers south of Velletri the ground rises 370 feet in nine kilometers, or forty-one feet per kilometer. In the last three kilometers south of Velletri the ground rises over 300 feet, or over 100 feet per kilometer.

Back of Velletri the ground rises sharply to the summit of Monte Peschio (about 3050 feet). Travel on the road net could be expected to be restricted by demolitions. The stream line, running south to the canals and ditches of the plain around Cisterna di Littoria, would generally canalize the movement of armored vehicles. The ground was generally rolling with a slight up-grade to the north. Cover was afforded for infantry troops moving north

within the corridors formed by the streams in the covered avenues of approach along the streams and ditches. From Cisterna di Littoria to Cori the rough terrain, north of the highway, provided good cover for advancing as well as defending troops. On the paths of advance the wooded areas were limited to scattered patches of fair-sized trees and low brush along most of the stream lines. Heavy woods on the east slopes of Colli Laziali offered concealment for large numbers of troops.

The primary obstacles to be overcome during the Third Infantry Division attack were the town of Cisterna di Littoria and the railroad bed running through the town in a northwesterly direction to Campoleone.

Cisterna di Littoria had numerous large caves and subterranean passages which were reported to have a capacity of several thousand persons. The main entrance was on the Piazza di Monumento and large subterranean passages were said to connect this cave with the west bank



Religious services were held in "The Pines" for Seventh Infantry personnel on the days preceding the "Push on Cisterna di Littoria". Top photo shows Catholics and the lower photo shows Protestants attending services.

of the Fosso di Cisterna. The cave was believed to have a capacity of 5000 persons. Other caves and interconnected subterranean passages existed under dwellings in the zone of Cisterna Vecchia. One other cave was estimated to be about two kilometers long and terminated in a zone called "Le Castelle", three kilometers northwest of Cisterna di Littoria. Those caves obviously provided shelter for a considerable number of troops and because they were in many instances connected with dwellings, they would be excellent shelters should the enemy decide to fortify and defend the houses. Prisoners of war had reported that all civilians had been evacuated and the tunnels were being used by the German troops.

South of Highway 7 and the Cisterna di Littoria-Ponte Rotto road the ground was continually soft, cut by numerous drainage ditches about five feet wide and four feet deep with a soft and muddy bottom. Except on the roads and few tracks that existed it was not practicable for armor. East, north and northwest of Cisterna di Littoria damage to his supply routes north of Rome. The exact point of time, of course, at which the shortage would begin to effect his operations could not be calculated.

Littoria the ground was very hard, consisting mostly of pasture land with very few trees or bushes. The terrain was considered practicable for the employment of tanks, half-tracks and even trucks operating cross-country. German tanks had been observed operating cross-country in the area at all times of the year even after many rainy days. East and northwest of Cisterna di Littoria there was little good cover. Northwest of the town the ground was hard and suitable for the movement of armor, though in general it would be canalized in a north-south direction between the stream lines. Though the stream lines were formidable tank obstacles in some places they could be crossed in some places with little engineering work. In that area the many scattered buildings would provide good cover and concealment for vehicles and Infantry.

All crossings of the Mussolini Canal under enemy control below Highway 7 had been destroyed, though there was no evidence of destruction of crossings on or above Highway 7. To be useful as protection against a tank threat from the southeast the crossings would have to be brought under control and the canal itself covered with fire for it was possible that with a little work enemy tanks would be able to cross at many points.

The enemy was believed to have in stockpile enough supplies to fight a heavy offensive or defensive action for several days, but to be unable to fill the requirements of a protracted campaign because of the serious and continu-

CHAPTER VI

Seventh Infantry Breaks Out of the Anzio Beachhead

During the morning of 20 May a Regimental formation was held in the bivouac area. The Commanding General, Third Infantry Division, and the Commanding Officer, Seventh United States Infantry, made talks to the men. Following the formation religious services were held for Catholic and Protestant groups of men who wished to prepare themselves spiritually for the impending battles. The afternoon was spent in preparation for movement to the front.

The Regiment remained in "The Pines" until the early evening of 21 May when the units moved to area "H" in the vicinity of Acciarella. When the motor elements cleared area "H" at 2137 the march was resumed to Area "Y". The battalions closed into Area "Y",

Borgo Montella or Conca, shortly after midnight of 21-22 May. Camouflaging and entrenching was initiated immediately. The Regiment remained in its concealed bivouac during daylight hours on the 22nd. Some shelling was received and "Love" Company suffered one man killed and four wounded.

During the night of 22 May the Regiment was notified by "Iron Mike" that the big day was at hand. He sent the following message to Colonel O'Mohundro: "D-Day Tuesday 23 May 1944—H-Hour 0630B. Be prepared to push on beyond final objectives (line X-Y) on Division Order—No movement forward tonight prior to 2130B. Good luck and pour it on." Signed, O'Daniel, Commanding.

The Second and Third Battalions plus attachments moved out of Area "Y" at 2230 followed by the First Battalion a while later, and all troops closed into the forward areas in the vicinity of Isola Bella a little while after midnight. The Seventh Infantry was ready to break out of the Anzio Beachhead and capture Cisterna di Littoria. The line-up for the big operation presented some new names but it was equal to the ones that brought the Regiment ashore in French Morocco, and Sicily, crossed the Volturno and landed south of Nettuno. Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro assisted by Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, III, was to direct the operations. The veteran battalion commanders, Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour, and Lieutenant Colonel Everett W. Duvall, both of whom had been wounded on previous occasions and hospitalized for a time, were to lead the First and Second Battalions. A newcomer to the lineup, Lieutenant Colonel Arthur J. Smith, Jr., was to lead the Third Battalion into the attack. Captain Jack M. Duncan was the Regimental S-3.

At 0545, 23 May, the old stand-by of the Seventh Infantry, the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, with Division and Corps Artillery opened up with a devastating forty-five minute concentration. A total of ten battalions of light, medium and heavy artillery poured high explosive ammunition into enemy fortifications and gun positions. Bombers of the XII Air Support rained their cargoes of bombs on the forward enemy positions. At 0630B the Third Battalion crossed the line of departure in the attack. Twenty minutes later the Second Battalion jumped off and the Seventh Infantry, in the rain-shrouded mists, moved generally along the axis of the Isola Bella road and struck savagely toward Cisterna di Littoria, astride the Appian Way.

The Third Battalion attacked in a column of Companies with "L", "I" and "K" in order. The machine guns of Company "M" covered the flanks. Enemy resistance was light until House 251, where heavy machine gun, mortar and artillery fire were encountered. Company "L", under the command of Captain John W. Blaikie, engaged the enemy in a stiff fight and captured House 251 with sixteen prisoners of war at 0815.

Company "L" pushed on and seized Objective "H" at 1110 in the face of heavy resistance, sustaining severe casualties. The Second Battalion had difficulty jumping off. Enemy artillery, which answered friendly artillery, dropped on the White Battalion causing some casualties. At 0650 the troops of Companies "E" and "F" commanded by First Lieutenants Eugene F. Bacon and Joseph E. Martin, respectively, crossed the line of departure. Two hundred yards beyond the LD stubborn enemy resistance was encountered with intense automatic weapon and tank fire from two enemy strong points. One was in a group of three buildings west of the Isola Bella-Cisterna di Littoria road and the other was organized around one house east of the road. The tank-infantry assault teams, 60 and 81mm mortars, heavy and light machine guns of the battalion poured heavy fire at the strong-points which held out stubbornly.

Heavy artillery and machine gun fire continued to fall on the White Battalion troops. Two 37mm anti-tank guns of Anti-Tank Company and two medium tanks of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, supporting the Second Battalion were disabled by the severe enemy artillery and tank fire. One platoon of Company "E", which was attacking the strong point west of the road, maneuvered to the left and flanked the strong-point but progressed with great difficulty. Two hours later the objective was reached but the platoon had but eighteen men left of its original thirty-four. Staff Sergeant Virgil J. Kohrmann, Private First Class Napoleon E. Cloutier

and Private First Class Daniel T. Lilly performed in such a manner during the action that they were cited in official orders.⁶⁶

When his seven-man patrol was attacked without warning on 23 May by machine gun fire from a German dug-out one hundred yards to his front, Private First Class Emery Brooks, of Company "E", rushed forward, while three of his comrades fell wounded around him, to close with the enemy. Taking his Browning Automatic Rifle to the exposed crest of a ground rise, he set up his weapon and engaged in a lone fire-fight with the hostile machine gun. Then, while bullets grazed him, Private First Class Brooks jumped to his feet and charged into the withering fire, killing the German gunner with one burst of fire. As the patrol continued forward with Private First Class Brooks in the lead, a German automatic weapon opened fire from a distance of fifty yards. Private First Class Brooks was knocked to the ground with both of his thighs penetrated by enemy bullets. In excruciating pain, he crawled ten yards to a small shell crater, dragging his Browning Automatic Rifle with him. Though alone and critically wounded, he engaged in a ten to fifteen minute duel with the German gunner, finally silencing the hostile weapon. He was reported missing in action from that engagement. For his extraordinary heroism Private First Class Brooks, though missing, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶⁷

Company "F" attacked frontally the strong-point east of the road, with its troops widely deployed, and eliminated all enemy resistance there. A task force consisting of a rifle platoon reinforced by one light tank, one medium tank and one tank destroyer continued on toward other enemy points of resistance. Enemy self-propelled artillery fire knocked out the destroyer and the medium tank became mired in the mud and water of a creek. With only the light tank remaining the platoon progressed slowly against strong resistance. The two assault companies continued to receive enemy mortar, artillery and small arms fire and advanced slowly. At 1540 Company "F" took Road Junction 53 and Company "E" was a little ahead of "F" on the left. Private First Class Milton J. Hall, who was seriously wounded, received credit for personally killing three enemy and destroying a machine gun nest.⁶⁸

At 1445 Company "I" commanded by Captain Dan C. Easterday attempted to pass through Company "L" to continue the Third Battalion attack on Objective "I". At 1535 the company was receiving heavy machine gun and artillery fire and had not succeeded in passing through. Casualties were suffered and confusion existed. Technical Sergeant William R. E. E. Burgess and Private First Class Wallace G. Drill were outstanding in the work of reorganization.⁶⁹

At 1545 on 23 May Colonel O'Mohundro ordered the Second and Third Battalions to make a coordinated attack and commit their reserve companies. Two battalions of light and two battalions of medium artillery from the 10th and 9th Field Artillery Battalions and the British 24th Field Regiment supported the attack which jumped off at 1645.

Company "K" commanded by First Lieutenant James H. McCracken attacked between "Item" and "Love" Companies and encountered severe enemy fire from the

⁶⁶ GOs No. 175 & 289, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug. '44 & 5 Aug. '45. S/Sgt. Kohrmann, Pfc Cloutier & Lilly were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁷ For authority see GO No. 147 Hq. 7th Army 16 April 1945.

⁶⁸ GO No. 263, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Nov. '44. Pfc Hall was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁹ GO No. 189, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 Sept. '44. T/Sgt. Burgess & Pfc Drill were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

vicinity of the railroad tracks. First Lieutenant McCracken was killed in action and First Lieutenant Ralph Rocchiccioli took over command of the company. Company "K" reached the vicinity of 31 grid and remained there for the night. The Third Battalion did not capture Objective "I" on the first day of the attack.

Company "G", commanded by the veteran Captain Edgar H. Poinsett, made the main effort for the Second Battalion, passed through Company "F" and came abreast of "Easy" Company. Enemy resistance to the White Battalion was very heavy and determined and a severe fight continued throughout the afternoon and night. Second Lieutenant Charles W. Webb, of Company "H", and Staff Sergeant Edward A. Rivera, of Company "F", and who was killed in a subsequent action, personally killed some of the enemy and displayed gallantry. For Company "M" of the Third Battalion Corporal Thomas K. Mills, who was later killed in action, Private First Class Phillip R. Potts and Private First Class Howard U. Tatro, both machine gunners, and First Lieutenant Morton H. Perry performed with distinction.⁷⁰

The White Battalion troops persisted and at 2222 Objective "K" was taken. Supply was effected during the night and the Battalion prepared to continue the attack early the 24th. Cannon Company materially aided the advance 23 May by silencing an enemy four-gun battery.

The Regiment suffered heavy casualties on the first day of the breakthrough. Fifty-four "Cotton Balers" were listed as killed on that day. The Regimental Aid Station reported early in the afternoon that 150 men had already been evacuated. It will never be known exactly how many casualties were suffered by the Regiment on 23 May 1944 as many of the wounded of that day were not evacuated until later days and some of the dead were probably not discovered till later. The Third Infantry Division records indicate that the "Rock of the Marne" Division sustained a total of 995 casualties, the most suffered in a single day up to that time. The medical personnel aided and evacuated the wounded. Litter bearers were insufficient in number.

Seven enemy tanks appeared before Company "L" during the night and fired into Seventh Infantry lines as approximately fifty enemy attempted to infiltrate Company "L's" positions. The Third Battalion was unable to move during the night and early in the morning gave its combat strength as 81 for Company "I", 153 for Company "K", 32 for Company "L", 100 for Company "M" and 131 for Headquarters Company.

7th INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK 24 MAY 1944

Because of the very stubborn enemy resistance on 23 May the Third Battalion captured only one of its assigned three objectives and the Second Battalion took one of its two objectives that day. Colonel O'Mohundro decided to commit the First Battalion and ordered Lieutenant Colonel Izenour to bring up his Red troops. At 2200 on the 23rd the First Battalion left its assembly area and reassembled in the vicinity of Cle Monaco at one hour after midnight. At 0300 on the 24th the Red troops started moving through the Blue line.

Company "B", under the command of Captain Gerald A. Desrosier, passed through Company "L", the most forward company of the Third Battalion at 0555, and with not too much difficulty captured Objective "I" at 0658. Driving on, "Baker" Company seized Objective "J" at 0730. "Charlie" Company, under the command of Captain William B. Stewart, better known as "The

Spider", passed through Company "B" on Objective "J" and drove on for Objective "R", La Villa. Shortly before reaching the railroad track Company "C" ran into fierce enemy fire and was halted at about 0930. The enemy was dug-in all along the railroad bed and on the high ground to the rear. The railroad bed itself was criss-crossed by enfilade fire from machine guns, rifles and 88mm guns while the approaches to the railroad were covered with anti-personnel and anti-tank mines.

When two enemy machine guns one hundred yards away halted the advance of their platoon Privates First Class Calvin T. Bradshaw and Joseph F. Lindsay of Company "C" inspired the three men remaining in their squad to follow them in a continuation of the attack. Reaching the railroad cut despite bullets that barely missed, the two soldiers opened "Tommy" gun and rifle fire on one of the machine guns less than thirty yards to their right. Their daring conduct impelled both machine gun crews to take cover in a nearby dug-out. Covered by his companion, Private First Class Lindsay tossed two hand grenades into the dug-out forcing the eight occupants to surrender.⁷¹

By working one platoon across the railroad track at a time Company "C" overran German positions and was reported in La Villa at 1116. Company "A", under the command of First Lieutenant Tyler Campbell, was committed to the right of Company "C" and seized Objective "S" at about the same time that "C" took La Villa.



German soldiers surrender near Cisterna di Littoria on 24 May 1944.

Two members of Company "D" greatly assisted the advance of the riflemen of the First Battalion. Second Lieutenant Paul H. Hollon killed two enemy snipers with M-1 rifle fire and displayed cool leadership while directing the fire of his section. Private Chester A. Cummings was one who inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy with his machine gun.⁷²

The Second Battalion continued its attack the morning of May 24 the same time that the First Battalion

⁷⁰ GOs No. 168, 187 & 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. & 8 Nov. '44 & 20 May '45. S/Sgt. Rivera & Cpl. Mills (both posthumously), 1 Lt. Perry, 2 Lt. Webb, Pfc. Potts & Pfc. Tatro were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷¹ GO No. 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Dec. '44. Pfc. Bradshaw & Lindsay were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷² GOs No. 202 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 Sept. '44 & 25 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Hollon & Pvt. Cummings were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

jumped off. Companies "G" and "E" received heavy artillery and machine gun fire. At about nine o'clock the White Battalion troops were in possession of Objective "L" and sent strong combat patrols to the railroad. Severe casualties had been suffered by the battalion and it remained on Objective "L" the remainder of the morning. Sergeant Harry L. Dooley of Company "E", Sergeant Carl R. Hall of Company "G" and Staff Sergeant Aubrey L. Williamson of Company "H" were three non-commissioned officers of the Second Battalion forces who displayed leadership qualities while under fire.⁷³

The Third Battalion, after being passed through, followed in the wake of the First Battalion and supported the advance by fire. It was subjected to enemy artillery and mortar fire. Captain John W. Blaikie of Company "L" was wounded and evacuated and First Lieutenant Ralph J. Yates assumed command of the company. Casualties sustained continued to be heavy the morning of 24 May and at 1020 hours 342 wounded personnel had passed through the Regimental Aid Station. Lieutenants William A. Dunn, Irving Fajans, William R. Jones and Charles W. Webb were among those evacuated.

At 1530 Company "B" jumped off in the attack from Objective "R" and against relatively light opposition seized Objective "T" at 1620. Patrols were sent toward Cisterna di Littoria and drew heavy machine gun and artillery fire. The First Battalion established contact with the Sixth Armored Infantry and remained on Objectives "R", "S" and "T" during the night of 24-25 May.

Private First Class John N. Megown of Company "A" served with extraordinary heroism in action on 24-25 May near Cisterna di Littoria. A gunner of a Browning Automatic Rifle he organized and led a five-man patrol for one hundred fifty yards across open terrain in broad daylight to a firing position about fifty yards from an enemy machine gun. During this movement, he was fired at directly by the machine gun which killed one and wounded a second member of his patrol. In a brief fire fight, all three members of the enemy crew were wounded. As two more enemy came out of a ditch approximately twenty yards beyond the machine gun and ran toward it, Private First Class Megown charged them alone, killing both with hand grenades just as they reached the weapon. At once, he became the target of intense machine pistol and rifle fire from the ditch. Without waiting for his three remaining comrades to catch up, he assaulted the ditch, firing his Browning Automatic Rifle from the hip, thereby forcing a group of thirty-eight enlisted men and one officer to surrender.

On the 25th Private First Class Megown led his squad in an attack against an enemy machine gun that had halted digging-in operations of the company. Abandoning the cover of a building, he charged the machine gun nest, approximately one hundred yards away. He was killed after taking several steps. For his extraordinary heroism Private First Class Megown was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷⁴

First Sergeant Merrill L. Busk, of "Baker" Company, openly guided a tank up close to an enemy position and flushed out a sniper, who took cover in a cave. The tank then fired into the cave and forced out three enemy soldiers whom First Sergeant Busk killed with carbine fire from a position atop the tank. A group of about twenty-five other enemy soldiers then abandoned a ditch behind the cave. Firing the tank's .50 calibre machine gun First Sergeant Busk killed and wounded the entire enemy group. Private First Class George Palyszeski, an aid man from the Medical Detachment, though severely wounded, treated many other wounded personnel on the battlefield that day.⁷⁵

SECOND AND THIRD BATTALIONS ATTACK CISTERNA DI LITTORIA NIGHT OF 24-25 MAY

Early in the afternoon of 24 May the Third Battalion moved to Objective "J" and prepared to attack Cisterna di Littoria from the northwest in conjunction with an attack by the Second Battalion from Objective "L" on the railroad, and a feint toward Cisterna di Littoria. Enemy artillery fire increased. At 1825 a total of 521 wounded personnel had passed through the Regimental Aid Station since the beginning of the attack on 23 May, and were evacuated.

With Companies "E" and "G" in the assault, the Second Battalion began its attack on the railroad at 2125. At 2200 the Third Battalion jumped off towards Cisterna di Littoria. The advance of the White Battalion assault companies met slight resistance initially but when the troops were near the railroad line enemy resistance increased with heavy machine gun, artillery, mortar and self-propelled artillery fire being received. Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines were also encountered to further slow the advance. The work of the Second Battalion troops while advancing in the darkness against such strong opposition was outstanding. The troops crossed the railroad tracks on a wide front in six different places and attacked German troops from the rear, killing large numbers of the enemy. The Second Battalion was then ordered to push on to the edge of Cisterna di Littoria and hold. Company "F" passed through Company "G" at 0520, 25 May and one hour later the two companies were in Cisterna di Littoria fighting from ruined house to ruined house.

The Third Battalion moved slowly during the night and suffered heavy casualties. Once the Blue Battalion reported being shelled by friendly artillery batteries as well as the enemy. At 0435 the battalion observation post was located in the cemetery northwest of Cisterna di Littoria as the companies swung southeast to attack the town. Company "K" was on the left and Company "I" on the right of the Appian Way and about two hundred yards from the cemetery. Company "L" followed. Two enemy pill-boxes and numerous machine guns and snipers held up the forward companies from entering the town that morning, as an extremely heavy fight was waged.

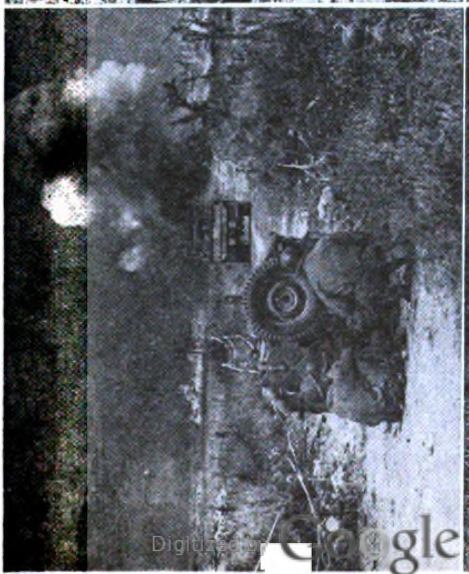
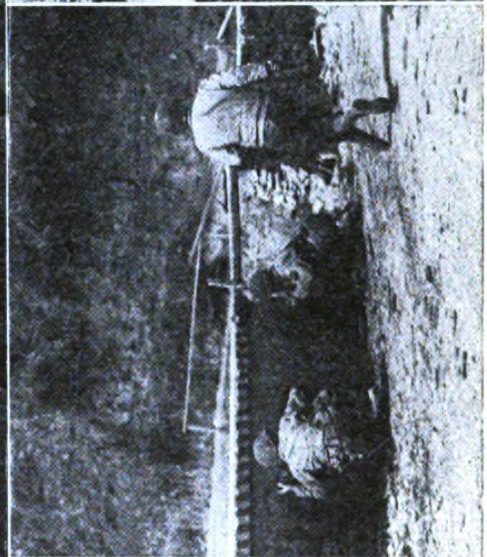
Meanwhile the Second Battalion engaged stubborn, determined enemy in hand to hand, house to house conflict that will stand for all time as a tribute to the best fighting traditions of the battalion. Technical Sergeant William E. Brown and Private First Class Dillon D. Brooke shot two enemy snipers in a hand to hand struggle and took fifteen others prisoners of war from a house in Cisterna di Littoria. Private First Class James T. Phillips, Jr., of Company "E" singlehandedly cleaned out a sniper's nest. Staff Sergeant Orie H. Tilseth of Company "F" made a daring reconnaissance in the town

The pictures on the opposite page, which show scenes of the capture of Cisterna di Littoria, were taken by LIFE Photographer George Silk. Copyright TIME, Inc. In the center photo may be seen Capt. William B. Stewart of Co. "C". In the lower left photo 2 Lt. Henry S. Prario, and T/Sgt. LeRoy E. Hamilton watch an unidentified Co. "C" soldier kill one of the last enemy snipers in the town, on 25 May 1944.

⁷³ GOs No. 175, 187 & 202, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug., 5 & 30 Sept. '44. S/Sgt. Williams, Sgts. Dooley & Hall were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁴ For authority see GO No. 8 Hq. 7th Army 4 Nov. 1944.

⁷⁵ GOs No. 175 & 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug. & 5 Sept. '44. 1 Sgt. Busk & Pvt. Palyszeski were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



which led to the capture of thirty-eight Germans. Staff Sergeant Wallace K. Bah, a heavy machine gun section leader of Company "H", singlehandedly captured eighteen snipers in a building. When his squad was caught in the crossfire of two enemy machine guns Sergeant Leo Iadarola of Company "E" attacked and eliminated one of the hostile weapons but was killed by the fire of the second one. Sergeant Clifford I. Clark of Company "F", who had been wounded three times before in the combat, personally assaulted an enemy position and killed three Germans before he was killed himself. Technician Fifth Grade Anthony Ferraro of Company "F" was wounded in the neck but he killed two and wounded three others of the enemy and completely wiped out a sniper's nest. Private First Class John J. Marella of Company "G" silenced two of the enemy's automatic weapons. Private First Class William J. Lyons of Company "F" was another who killed enemy snipers.⁷⁶

TWO MEMBERS OF COMPANY "F" WIN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSSES

Sergeant Samuel W. Pollard an acting mortar section leader of Company "F", on his own initiative, organized a nine-man patrol to clean out sniper nests in Cisterna di Littoria. Instructing his men to cover him, he assaulted the first house with a Thompson sub-machine gun and took four prisoners. Sergeant Pollard then proceeded to search every house on the street, braving intense point-blank machine gun, machine pistol and rifle fire each time he exposed himself. Aware that an enemy force was delivering heavy fire from the last house on the street, Sergeant Pollard nevertheless charged toward it across

approximately twenty yards of open space, shooting his gun as he ran. With streams of bullets barely missing him, he entered through a large hole in the house and wounded three enemy soldiers downstairs. Putting a new magazine in his weapon, he fired through an open doorway, mounted a flight of stairs and captured twenty more of the enemy. After turning these prisoners over to guards, Sergeant Pollard led four men on another check of the street. As he came to the last house, again, he observed three enemy soldiers descend a ditch and disappear into a large tunnel dug into the far bank. Going forward to the mouth of the tunnel alone, Sergeant Pollard fired into it and called on its occupants to surrender. One hundred seven enemy soldiers filed out and surrendered, bringing Sergeant Pollard's grand total of prisoners to one hundred thirty-four. For his extraordinary heroism that day Sergeant Pollard was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷⁷

Enemy held out in the large Castle in the center of the town to the last. There was only one entrance to the Castle, which was covered by an enemy anti-tank gun. Company "G" maneuvered around the south side of the Castle with two platoons of tanks. Company "F" placed a machine gun on top a house across from the Castle and placed accurate fire on the enemy anti-tank gun, which succeeded in keeping the crew away.

⁷⁶ GOs No. 89, 171, 175, 187, 282 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 July, 8 Aug. & 5 Sept. '44 & 9 Mar., 24 May, 1 & 15 Aug. '45. Sgts. Clark & Iadarola & Pfc Brooke (each posthumously); & T/Sgt. Brown, S/Sgts. Bah & Tilseth, T/5 Ferraro, Pfc Lyons, Marella & Phillips were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁷ For authority see GO No. 115, Hqrs. 7th Army 24 Nov. 1944.



Twenty-two of the 180 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action during the period 23-31 May 1944 were: (1) Pfc Coy Blalok, Co. "I"; (2) Pvt. Sol Blandeburgo, Co. "L"; (3) Pfc Steve L. Buran, Co. "M"; (4) Pfc Howard F. Cornelius, Co. "M"; (5) 1 Lt. Louis H. Durkee, Co. "M"; (6) Pvt. J. C. Flanagan, Co. "I"; (7) Pfc Frederick Gleich, Co. "I"; (8) Pfc Bryan G. Hunt, Co. "A"; (9) Pvt. Charles Martz, Co. "I"; (10) S/Sgt. Edward A. Rivera, Co. "F"; (11) Pvt. Ordway K. Rich, Co. "L"; (12) Sgt. Clarence Stillwell, Co. "I"; (13) S/Sgt. Ernest H. Snead, Co. "C"; (14) Pvt. Glenn M. Wallace, Co. "L"; (15) S/Sgt. Warren B. Williams, Co. "I"; (16) 1 Lt. Edward L. Maher, Co. "K"; (17) 2 Lt. William J. Davis, Co. "G"; (18) Pvt. James E. Koonce, Co. "I"; (19) 1 Lt. Ralph Rocchiccoli, Co. "K"; (20) 2 Lt. Edgar R. Giffin, Co. "F"; (21) 1 Lt. Clarence P. Goodwin, Jr., Co. "L"; (22) Pvt. Rudolph A. Sannicandro, Co. "I".

Technical Sergeant Earl E. Swanson of Company "F" acted with extraordinary heroism in leading his platoon in three successive assaults against the enemy entrenched in the Castle. Charging one hundred yards over ground swept by grazing machine gun fire he battered his way into the massive stronghold and in a brisk fire fight killed two and captured forty of the enemy. Entering a cellar he fought singlehandedly in darkness, against an enemy force of one hundred, compelling their surrender with hand grenades. Earl E. Swanson later received a battle field promotion and advanced to the rank of captain. In subsequent action he was killed. For extraordinary action performed 25 May 1944 he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷⁸

A medium tank of Company "A", 751st Tank Battalion, roared through the entrance to the Castle grounds and destroyed the enemy anti-tank gun. Other troops of Company "F" then stormed the Castle. A total of two hundred fifty Germans were routed from the cave beneath the Castle. Included in the batch of prisoners was the commanding officer of the 955th Infantry Regiment and his staff.

Company "G" continued to mop up and took an additional one hundred prisoners in other caves. At 1255 on 25 May the First Battalion got into the fight once more by attacking on the right of the Third Battalion. Companies "A" and "C", supported by armor, entered Cisterna di Littoria at 1515 and assisted in cleaning up the town. At 1720 the Third Battalion continued its attack and entered the embattled town at 1920.

Company "B" joined the bulk of the Red Battalion in Cisterna di Littoria at 2025 and all the fighting companies of the Regiment were in the town. The battalions contacted each other and all enemy resistance was wiped out. At last Cisterna di Littoria was captured. Though only a small town of seven thousand people normally, it was the toughest nut the Third Division had to crack in World War II. Like Casablanca, Agrigento, Palermo and Messina the Seventh Infantry Regiment had taken it for the "Rock of the Marne" Division.

The Regimental Battle Patrol maintained contact with the 15th Infantry on the right flank during the three-day engagement. While the Seventh Infantry fought for Cisterna di Littoria the sister regiments of the Division by-passed the town and sped on for Cori which was captured about the same time Cisterna di Littoria fell to the "Cotton Balers".

During the three days of fighting the American Third Infantry Division sustained heavy casualties, approximately 1400 killed and wounded. But the enemy suffered heavier casualties; 1600 prisoners were taken by the Third Division alone and probably an equal number killed and wounded. The German 362nd Infantry Division, which was ordered to defend in place, was

wiped out by the American Third Infantry and First Armored Infantry Divisions while the German 715th Division lost about half its strength.

For the Third Division the "heaviest fighting was done by the Seventh Infantry."⁷⁹

Casualties to the Seventh Infantry during the three days fighting were severe. The Regiment lost 116 members killed in action during the three days and had 556 wounded personnel evacuated through the Regimental Aid Station for a total of 682 battle casualties, nearly one half the Third Division casualty figure. Company "K" lost two commanding officers killed during the action. During the fighting for the town Lieutenant Colonel Arthur J. Smith, Jr., commanding officer of the Third Battalion, was seriously wounded and evacuated. Captain Glenn E. Rathbun, former Company "M" commander, assumed command of the Battalion.

Of the 1600 prisoners taken by the Third Infantry Division 931 were brought in by the "Cotton Balermen", over two thirds of which were ratted out of Cisterna di Littoria. The Second Battalion captured a total of three hundred fifty prisoners in Cisterna di Littoria while the First and Third Battalions got about one hundred fifty each.

In addition to those already named Private Carl C. Egebergh and Private First Class Lloyd L. Cummins, both of Company "I", Private First Class James H. Draper and Roger C. Hommel and Privates Albert Miceli and Gilbert E. Vasquez, all of Company "M", displayed gallantry in action during the attack on Cisterna di Littoria.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ For authority see GO No. 172 Hqrs. 7th Army 5 May 1945.

⁷⁹ Third Infantry Division History.

⁸⁰ GOs No. 175, 177, 185, 212 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 8 & 9 Aug., 3 Sept., 6 Oct. & 27 Dec. '44. Pfc's Cummins, Draper, Hommel & Pvt's. Egebergh, Miceli & Vasquez were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



The ruins of Cisterna di Littoria.

CHAPTER VII

"On to Rome"

During the night of 25-26 May the Seventh Infantry assembled in an area about two miles northeast of Cisterna di Littoria and formulated plans for continuing the attack. On 26 May the American VI Corps continued the offensive to seize the high ground between Launuvio and Campoleone with the Third Infantry Division (Reinforced) advancing on Artena.

The enemy did not hold a definite front line in the Third Infantry Division zone of advance but was expected to delay the advance with units of platoon to

company size with his resistance becoming stronger until the line Velletri-Artena was reached. There he would be capable of defending with elements of the 334th Infantry Division and the Hermann Goering Panzer Division and possibly elements of one or more of his mobile formations then on the Southern Front, such as the 29th, 15th, 26th or 90th Panzer Grenadier Divisions.

It was appreciated that the enemy's principal desire was to keep the Americans out of the Valmontone Valley and away from Highway 6 while he attempted to effect a

reunion between his southern and northern forces and establish his Velletri-Valmontone-Avezzano line. To do that he was expected to fight for the back side of the high ground overlooking Valmontone, even to the extent of infiltrating or counter-attacking any forces placed on that ground.

Eventually his line would probably run from the eastern slope of Colli Laziali to Genzano, which could be made into a miniature Cassino and which would protect the last gap separating the American forces from the

Division and elements of the Hermann Goering Panzer Division in reserve.

With a battalion of the 15th Infantry in the lead the Third Infantry Division advanced along the Cori-Giuliano road. Shortly after noon five American P-40 fighter-bombers bombed and strafed the head of the Third Infantry Division column and killed and wounded over one hundred "dogfaces". Seventy casualties were caused to the Second Battalion of the 15th Infantry alone.

The Seventh Infantry moved by bounds, following the 30th Infantry, to Giulianello. A limited objective attack was launched by the Regiment from Giulianello that night. The high ground west of Artena in the vicinity of Pfo del Colle and Colle Rotundo was captured. Small enemy holding groups were encountered.

Company "K" engaged approximately twenty enemy in a fire fight during a meeting engagement which lasted about a half hour. Four of the enemy were killed, three wounded, three captured and the remainder caused to withdraw. Temporary defenses were installed during the night of 26-27 May.

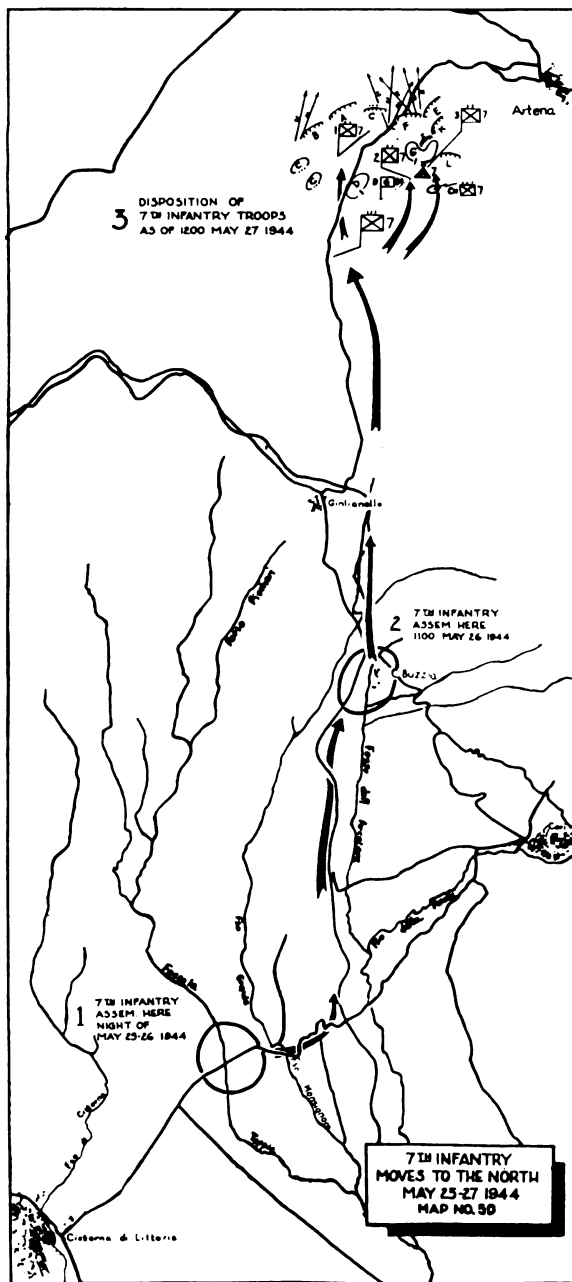
On the 27th the Regiment readjusted its lines with the Second and Third Battalions moving to new positions. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon established a listening post on Hill 305 prior to the arrival of Company "L".

First Lieutenant Victor Crepeau of the Battle Patrol led a fifteen-man patrol in a daring and successful raid to Tre Are, a village three miles west of Artena, Italy. Two Germans were killed, four captured and valuable information obtained. Despite the fire of two machine guns, three machine pistols, and rifles from a force of approximately forty enemy soldiers, placed in five houses fifty to one hundred yards away, First Lieutenant Crepeau led his patrol forward, ignoring small arms fire. He personally tossed two grenades through a doorway, then sprayed it with "Tommy" gun fire and thus forced the surrender of the four enemy soldiers. Those Germans who were not killed or captured fled from the village.⁸¹

SEVENTH INFANTRY MOVES FORWARD 28 MAY 1944

At 1400 on 28 May 1944, the Seventh Infantry and attachments moved forward to new positions with the three rifle battalions abreast. Each had two rifle companies abreast and one in support. All the battalions encountered strong enemy resistance consisting of small arms, machine gun, mortar, artillery and tank fire.

During the offensive which broke through the enemy strongholds that day, Staff Sergeant Rudolph B. Davilla of Company "H" risked death to provide heavy weapons support for the beleaguered riflemen of the Second Battalion. Caught on an exposed hillside by heavy grazing fire from a well entrenched enemy force, his machine gunners were reluctant to risk putting their guns into action. Crawling to the nearest machine gun, Staff Sergeant Davilla set it up alone and opened fire on the enemy. Shooting from a semi-erect position in order to observe the effect of his fire over the waist-high wheat, he disregarded enemy fire which struck the tripod and even passed between his legs. Ordering a gunner to take over, he crawled forward to a vantage point and directed the fire-fight with hand and arm signals until both hostile machine guns were silenced. Bringing his three remaining machine guns into action, he drove the enemy to a reserve position two hundred yards to the rear. When he received



Rome Plain. Available to the enemy to oppose the Third Infantry Division attack were three or four battalions of the 334th Infantry Division in line, remnants of the 362nd and 715th Infantry Divisions in delaying positions, two or three battalions of the 334th Infantry

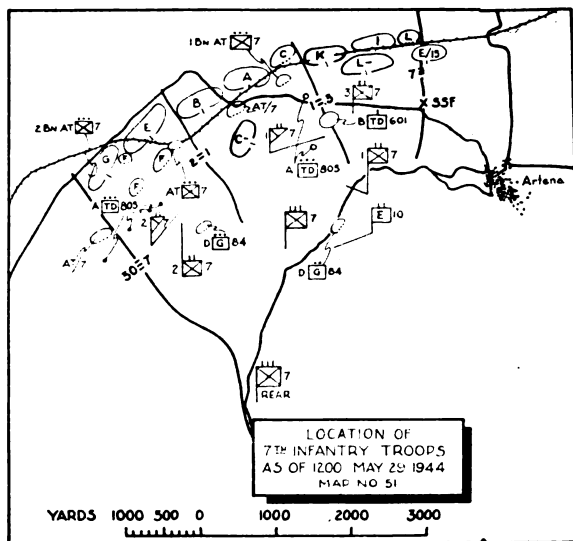
⁸¹ GO No. 146, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 June '44. 1 Lt. Crepeau was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

a painful shell wound in the leg, he dashed to a burned tank and, despite the crash of bullets on the hull, fired at a second enemy force from its turret. Dismounting, he advanced in short rushes, crawled twenty yards and charged into an enemy-held house to dispatch the defending force of five with hand grenade and rifle fire. Climbing to the attic, he straddled a large shell hole in the wall and opened fire on the enemy with a borrowed .03 rifle. Although the walls of the house were crumbling, he continued to fire until he had destroyed two more machine guns. His intrepid actions brought desperately needed heavy weapons support to the hard-pressed riflemen and silenced four enemy machine guns, forcing the enemy to abandon their prepared positions. For his extraordinary heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁸²

The enemy gave ground stubbornly and the riflemen encountered much difficulty. Many small actions stood out prominently. When a hostile machine gun killed two and wounded eight of his buddies Private First Class James P. Wils of Company "B" crawled forward and engaged the weapon. With grenades he killed both enemy gunners and knocked out the weapon.

A group of approximately fifteen German soldiers attempted to deploy around a road block which was covered by a machine gun section from Company "D". The enemy group launched an attack on the blocking section but was driven back with heavy losses. Private First Class Chester W. Bitak and Private First Class Paul E. Helms displayed gallantry during the action.

Staff Sergeant Winston R. Nelson of Company "B" was seriously wounded by enemy soldiers who had advanced forward under a smoke screen. In spite of several wounds he engaged the foe and killed all three Germans with "Tommy" gun and rifle fire after a fierce fight.



Private First Class Carrollton L. Brown of Company "B" led a squad of eight men to the Velletri-Valmontone Highway and commanded them throughout a five hour fire-fight in which approximately one hundred Germans were killed. The squad ambushed several enemy groups including one of platoon size.

Staff Sergeant Robert A. Higgins of Company "E" rallied his light machine gun section despite artillery and mortar shells landing no more than twenty-five yards away, and led his men in an assault on an enemy-held hill. He boldly directed his men forward in a series of

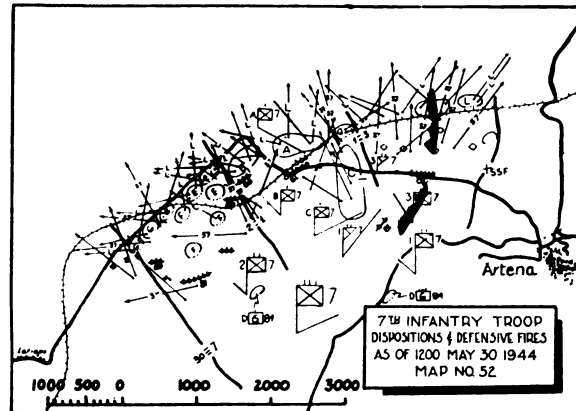
rushes and engaged the foe, personally killing four with M-1 rifle fire. The assault was successful.

Private Arthur J. Hack of First Battalion Headquarters led eight tanks forward through continuing hostile shell fire. Technical Sergeant Bert A. Rodman of Company "D" was severely wounded but continued to fight the enemy and killed approximately forty Germans with very effective fire from a machine gun. Staff Sergeant Otis O. Fottenbury and Private First Class Howard U. Tatro, both of Company "M", and Private First Class Frederick J. Bassett of Company "C", Private First Class Cleatus E. Henderson of Company "D" were also cited for actions performed.⁸³

Cannon Company and the 10th Field Artillery Battalion supported the advance by fire. The one platoon of Company "C", 751st Tank Battalion, and two platoons of Company "A", 805th Tank Destroyer Battalion, followed the attack in close support of the advancing battalions. The advance of the Regiment continued until all objectives were taken at 2055 and temporary defenses were again installed. Security and contact patrols were active during the hours of darkness.

The Regiment remained in position on the 29th and 30th and continued preparing defenses, being harassed by enemy tank and artillery fire throughout the area. Several enemy were killed by Third Battalion snipers and machine gunners. The Regimental Battle Patrol continued its patrolling activities.

At about 0100 hours, 30 May, Sergeant Herbert R. Davis and Private First Class Dale E. Cessna of Company "G" were engaged in a furious fire-fight against an enemy machine gun which was harassing their platoon. A hail of enemy bullets wounded Sergeant Davis in the back. However, the two men continued firing until the opposing gun one hundred yards away was silenced. Moments



later, when their gun jammed, they ran one hundred yards to the rear through a heavy enemy concentration of artillery and mortar shells which burst as close as twenty-five yards to them, obtained another gun and returned. The new weapon was immediately set up and fired so effectively that they dispatched the crews of two other enemy machine guns.⁸⁴

At 0345, 31 May, Company "A" seized Hill 317

⁸² For authority see GO No. 10 Hq. 7th Army 16 Jan. 1945.

⁸³ GOs No. 66, 152, 175, 187, 206, 235 & 257, HQ. 3d Inf. Div., 8 Aug., 5 Sept., 2 Oct. & 8 Nov. '44 & 25 Feb., 4 May & 29 June '45. T/Sgt. Rodman & Pfc Wils were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgt. Fottenbury, who received a battle field commission and was killed in a subsequent action, S/Sgts. Higgins & Nelson, Pvts. Bassett, Bitak, Brown, Helms, Henderson, Tatro & Hack were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

against no resistance. The relief of the Second Battalion by the Third Battalion, 338th Infantry, 85th Infantry Division, was completed at 0700 and the battalion reverted to reserve. Early that morning Private Allen H. White of Company "M" directed artillery fire by telephone which knocked out an enemy battery of eight mortars and silenced a Mark VI tank.⁸⁴

SEVENTH INFANTRY MAKES LIMITED OBJECTIVE ATTACK, 31 MAY 1944

At 1400, 31 May 1944, the Seventh Infantry made a limited objective attack with two platoons of Company "C" and one platoon of Company "L" in the attacking echelon. Company "I" supported by fire the attack of the "Love" Company platoon and Company "K" supported the attack of Company "C". "Charlie" Company encountered scattered but strong enemy resistance which was overcome and the platoon captured Hill 331 west of Valle Pera at 1530. The First Battalion moved up and occupied a defensive line from Valle Pera to Hill 332.

Staff Sergeant Dwight R. Thierolf and Sergeant Gerald T. Hennings, both of "Charlie" Company, together captured thirty enemy soldiers in a ravine near Labico, Italy. Second Lieutenant Henry S. Prario and Staff Sergeant Leroy E. Hamilton, also of Company "C", captured two enemy snipers after a fire fight and then attacked a German artillery fire control center on the strength of information received from the snipers. After suffering five casualties, twenty-one of the enemy, including four officers, surrendered. Enemy artillery which previously knocked out three American tanks and inflicted casualties ceased firing.⁸⁵

The platoon of Company "L" commanded by First Lieutenant Clarence P. Goodwin, Jr., succeeded in reaching its objective, a hill on Colle Nascaso, just twenty-five minutes after jumping off in the attack. However, a short

cover the withdrawal of the platoon. Three were destroyed by enemy fire before the platoon of Company "L" was able to withdraw with its nineteen remaining men of the forty-two which started out.

On 29 May the Third Infantry Division had passed from the VI Corps to the II Corps which planned to resume the attack on 1 June to capture the high ground north of Valmontone and continue the attack to the northwest to capture high ground southeast of Rome and cut Highway 5 east of Rome. The Third Infantry Division was assigned the mission of capturing the high ground north of Valmontone following which the 85th Infantry Division was to attack on the left. The Third Infantry Division planned to attack at 0500, 1 June to capture the assigned objectives and be prepared to attack to the northwest on Corps order. The attacking echelon consisted from left to right of Task Force Howze, with the First Battalion Seventh Infantry attached, the 30th Infantry, 15th Infantry and the Special Service Force. The Second Battalion Seventh Infantry was assigned the mission of following closely the attack of the 30th Infantry, then at the opportune time pass through that regiment and attack Valmontone, to destroy all enemy forces therein.

The Seventh Infantry minus the First and Second Battalions was to constitute Division reserve. Accordingly at 0500, 1 June, the attack jumped off and elements of the 15th and 30th Infantries passed through the positions of the First and Third Battalions whereupon the Red Battalion became attached to Task Force Howze.

The Second Battalion was committed at 0800 crossing the railroad line just west of the Ardena-Valmontone road. Companies "E" and "F" made the assault and "G" was in reserve. Enemy artillery fire caused



Pvt. Donald J. Peoples, left, and Pvt. John H. Silvia, both of Co. "K" were killed in action on 31 May 1944.



Left, Capt. Harry E. Levy of Co. "H", who died of wounds on 1 June and 1 Lt. John S. Raney, of Co. "M", who was killed in action on 3 June 1944. Picture of Capt. Levy shows him as a second lieutenant and was taken in Rabat, French Morocco, in Dec., 1942. He was inducted into the Army as a private in Sept., 1941 and after completing the Infantry officers' candidate course was commissioned in Sept., 1942. He made the Fedala landings with the Regiment and was wounded during the invasion of Sicily. He was promoted to a captain in January, 1944. Wounded on 29 May he died three days later. Capt. Levy was a graduate of Fourteen Holy Martyrs parochial school and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute.

time after taking the objective the platoon was subjected to a terrific enemy artillery barrage and then attacked by German Infantry. First Lieutenant Goodwin was killed when his foxhole received a direct hit from enemy artillery. The same shell killed the radio operator which ended communication with the Company Headquarters. A desperate struggle ensued and six more members of the platoon were killed and three members were captured by the enemy. Four tanks went out at four o'clock to

⁸⁴ GOs No. 171 & 246, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 July & 28 Oct. '44. Sgt. Davis was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Pfc Cessna & Pvt. White were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁵ GOs No. 161 & 208, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July & 4 Oct. '44. 2 Lt. Prario, S/Sgts. Hamilton & Thierolf & Sgt. Hennings were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

eighteen casualties to "Fox" Company. Engaging enemy rear-guard elements the Battalion overcame resistance consisting of self-propelled guns and flak wagons. Enemy planes dropped anti-personnel bombs on the Battalion during the night but at 0500, 2 June, in the face of small arms fire and neblewerfer fire the White Battalion cut the railroad and Highway 6 just west of Valmontone.

Company "F" seized the high ground west of Valmontone as White Battalion patrols entered the town and suffered some casualties. The Second Battalion soon cleared the town then drove for the high ground five thousand yards north of Valmontone. The high ground was seized from small enemy forces armed with automatic weapons. Following a resupply of the rifle companies Company "G" took up the battalion advance at 1800, 2 June, and advanced in two hours time against medium opposition to the cemetery about seventeen hundred yards southwest of Palestrina. There considerable tank and self-propelled fire from the crossroads south of the town was received. Companies "E" and "F" deployed to the left of "G" and the battalion remained in position the night of 2-3 June.

The Third Battalion in division reserve was committed at 0230 on 2 June and moved toward Valmontone in advance guard formation. By daylight a position on the flat ground southwest of the town was reached. The battalion moved farther north to a new objective where it halted at mid-day. At 1615 the Blue troops started for a crossroad to the southeast of the Second Battalion's objective. Company "I" supported by tanks, and followed by Company "K", led the advance. Company "L" was attached to Task Force Ellis. Company "I" encountered a great deal of artillery and tank fire while about 2000 yards short of the objective so the Battalion took up the attack formation with Company "K" on the left of "I". Intense fire from hostile machine guns and two Tigers, or Mark VI tanks, was received as the troops advanced slowly.

On 3 June the Second and Third Battalions continued their limited attacks to take two crossroads south of Palestrina. As the Third Infantry Division did not desire that the battalions attack and capture Palestrina their tactics were really aggressive defense with limited objective attacks. Their mission was to prevent an enemy



"Cotton Balers" killed in action on the way to Rome await burial.

attack that would cut Highway 6 and cut off forward elements of the Division. But the two crossroads were considered important and Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, III, expertly planned and directed the coordinated attack of the two battalions supported by armor, which overcame the stubborn enemy resistance and captured the two important features near Palestrina, which closed the last avenue of escape to enemy in that area.

Without regard for his own personal safety, Lieutenant Colonel Toffey went to the forward elements to coordinate the action of the friendly forces. While at a forward observation post directing the action Lieutenant Colonel Toffey, and First Lieutenant John S. Raney, commanding Company "M", were killed instantly during an enemy artillery and tank barrage when the enemy scored a direct hit on the observation post. Lieutenant Colonel Snyder, the tank battalion commander, was seriously wounded by the same shell. Second Lieutenant Thomas H. Scully of Company "K" also met his death on the battle field that day.

Though he was killed in the final phases and unable to see the action through to its end the soundness of Lieutenant Colonel Toffey's plans and the example of his personal bravery assured the accomplishment of the important missions.⁸⁶

Company "I" seized the Third Battalion objective while Company "G" supported by fire from two tanks, three tank destroyers and two battalions of artillery stormed the Second Battalion objective and seized it that afternoon. One enemy flakwagon and one Mark IV tank were destroyed, six enemy were killed, five taken prisoner and the rest forced to withdraw into Palestrina.

During the action of 1-3 June 1944, First Lieutenant Robert W. Smitherman of Company "G", Private First Class William F. Morton of Company "F", and Private First Class Zoilo F. Rivera, both of Company "F", Private Edward H. Kukkan of Second Battalion Headquarters and Private Joe Spain of the Medical Detachment were outstanding among their units.⁸⁷

Task Force Howze which was organized for the operation beginning 1 June had the mission of providing a large mobile striking force and to protect the gap between the Third and Eighty-Eighth Divisions. It consisted of the First Battalion Seventh Infantry, Third Battalion 13th Armored Infantry Regiment, one unit of the First Armored Division, and a company of tank destroyers. At 0500, 1 June, with two tank companies abreast, the Force jumped off in the attack. The First Battalion



A Cannon Company M-8 makes a halt on the Road to Rome. The Nazi flag was picked up in Cisterna di Littoria. Left to right: 1 Lt. George Guckert, Pfc McDonald, Pfc Vendetti, T/5 Whelchel, Cpl. Sheridan, and S/Sgt. Hugh Lilevjen.

⁸⁶ GO No. 131, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 June '44. Lt. Col. Toffey was posthumously awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁷ GOs No. 22, 29, 40, 161 & 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July & 8 Aug. '44 & 22 & 29 Jan. & 9 Feb. '45. 1 Lt. Smitherman was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Pfc Morton & Rivera, Pvs. Kukkan & Spain were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Seventh Infantry followed the right tank company straight north for Labico then swerved over to the left as it neared the highway.

A platoon of Company "B" went on the mission of contacting the 88th Division on the left and the remainder of the Company became engaged in a stiff fight in the hills. As the Task Force was held up, Company "C" was committed in the afternoon and the battalion was engaged throughout the night against enemy using machine guns, grenades and rifles.

When his company was fired upon from a brushy area thirty yards away, Private Charles T. Borelli of Company "A" led a seven-man squad in an assault against the enemy force consisting of an estimated heavy weapons company plus rifle attachments. Although four members of his squad were fatally wounded as they entered the brush, Private Borelli continued to advance until a hand grenade fell at his feet. As he leaped backwards and threw himself to the ground, the enemy opened fire from well camouflaged emplacements a few yards away with machine pistol and rifle fire. Private Borelli then crawled to a foxhole and reached down to make the occupant prisoner. When the enemy soldier attempted to throw a grenade Private Borelli shot him. He then proceeded further into the brush and succeeded, during a fierce fire-fight, in completely clearing the position of the enemy. As a result of his aggressive action and outstanding bravery, Private Borelli personally killed fifteen enemy soldiers and was responsible for the destruction of a strongly defended enemy position. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁸⁸

Captain William B. Stewart (who was known as "the Spider", and several Company "C" men, fought admirably. The captain displayed daring leadership that inspired his company to break the enemy's line in its sector. Second Lieutenant James C. Lynch set up a roadblock with half a squad of riflemen and audaciously ambushed an enemy convoy. Three men were killed, six wounded, forty captured and fifteen vehicles seized. Second Lieutenant Walter M. Rice led his platoon in a courageous attack on an enemy-held hill which was very successful. Private First Class John H. Zawacki alone assaulted an enemy



Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour commanded the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 25 July 1943 to 30 January 1944 when he was wounded in action and evacuated. He again assumed command of the battalion on 13 March 1944 and won distinction by ably directing it in the "breakthrough" operations and on to Rome. The First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, was the first full Allied military unit to enter the Eternal City on Sunday, 4 June 1944.

machine gun and put it out of action. Staff Sergeant George C. Pletzke rescued five members of his squad who became separated from the company and were in danger of their lives.⁸⁹

By noontime 2 June, against scattered sniper, mortar and artillery fire, the First Battalion reached the railroad tracks west of Labico. During the afternoon it crossed the highway to an assembly area where it remained until the morning of 3 June.

On 3 June Task Force Howze preceded all units of the Third Infantry Division and Second Corps and attacked to the left on Highway 6 toward Rome. All enemy pockets of resistance were cleaned out. The First Battalion troops knocked out a series of enemy strong points protected by automatic weapons and bagged large numbers of prisoners with only a few casualties suffered itself.

At 1700 hours the Red Battalion was ordered to establish three road blocks between Highways 6 and 5, each to consist of a company of infantry and a company of tanks. Company "B" moved to its position by riding on the tanks and established its block without trouble. Company "A" encountered some difficulty. Riding on its tanks "Able" Company was ambushed by an enemy road block which allowed the first two tanks with infantry to pass then hit the third with anti-tank gun fire. One man was killed and thirteen wounded. Company "A" deployed from the tanks into the field and drove off the enemy, then set up its own block.

Company "C" enjoyed great success. Riding in the dark on fourteen tanks to set up the third block it ambushed an enemy convoy of almost thirty vehicles. All the vehicles were captured with one hundred thirty enemy, including a battalion commander being taken prisoner. Two mobile 88mm guns were included in the loot. Company "C" suffered no casualties but the enemy had four killed.

FIRST BATTALION SEVENTH INFANTRY BECOMES FIRST FULL COMBAT UNIT OF THE ALLIED ARMIES TO ENTER ROME 4 JUNE 1944

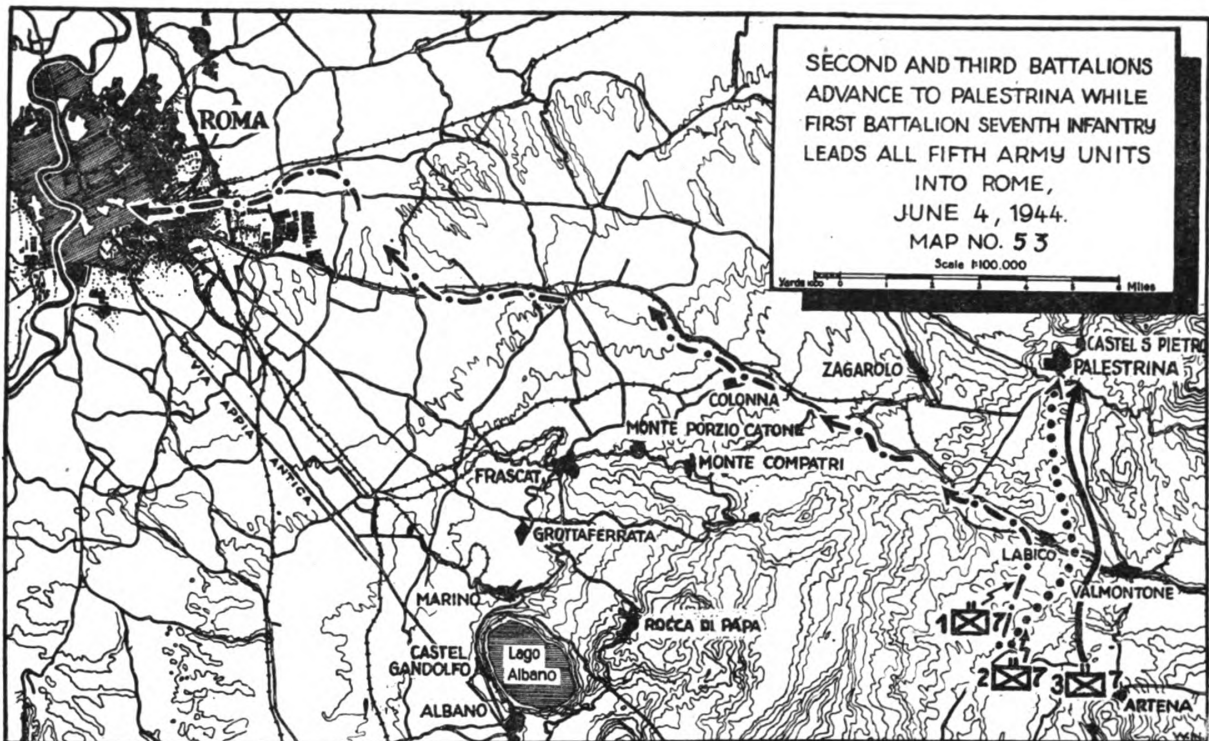
As Task Force Howze was dissolved the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, moved on foot to Tor Sapienza in the morning of the 4th and at 1400 was ordered to move into Rome with the Special Service Force on its left. An enemy force was encountered at the outskirts of the Italian capital and the Special Service Force was held up, but the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, outflanked the enemy and moved ahead into Rome. Thus it was that Seventh Infantrymen were the first Allied soldiers into Rome and the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, was the first full Allied combat unit into the Eternal City. Elements of the 85th Infantry Division also encountered enemy who delayed their advance. Whenever large cities or objectives are taken as a result of the combined action of many units and organizations, claims and counter-claims have always been made by various units concerning the capture. However, the great city of Rome was not captured by one battalion, or regiment, or division, or corps, but by the coordinated efforts of all the combat units of the Fifth Army. Therefore no unit can claim the capture. However, it is a matter of military record that the first full Allied combat unit to enter Rome on Sunday, 4 June 1944 was the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour.

Without opposition, the First Battalion reached the San Lorenzo railroad yards at 1600. After setting up a defense in the streets about the railroad station the troops remained in the vicinity for the night.

Once again the "Cotton Balermen" had led all units and chalked up a first that stands out in the long and colorful history of the Regiment. Rome, the Eternal City,

⁸⁸ For authority see GO No. 137 Hq. 7th Army 27 Dec. 1944.

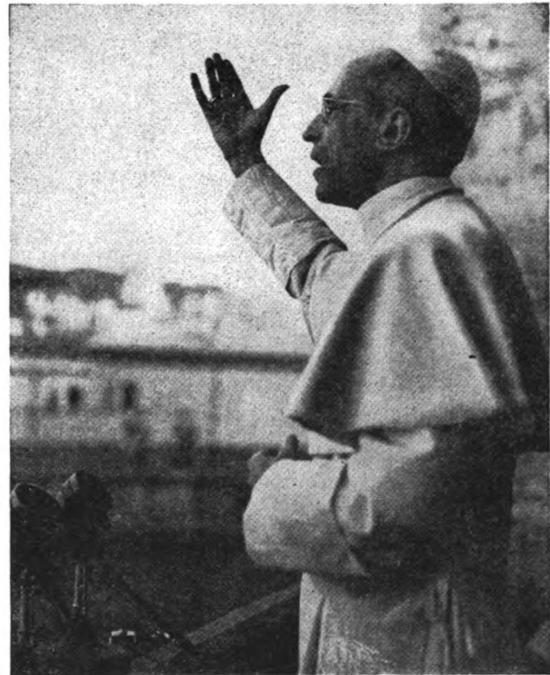
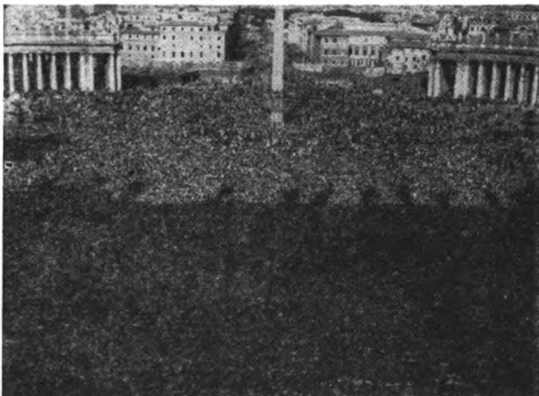
⁸⁹ GOs No. 185, 187, 199 & 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3, 5 & 27 Sept. '44 & 11 Jan. '45. Capt. Stewart, 2 Lt. Lynch, 2 Lt. Rice, S/Sgt. Pletzke & Pfc Zawacki were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



had been added to the long list of names which begins with New Orleans.

The First Battalion troops were showered with gifts that night. The commanding officer had difficulty keep-

ing his units intact as the wine, vermouth and cognac poured down dry throats. The Second and Third Battalions, which were relieved by French units at 0800, 4 June, and entrucked for Rome, spent the night at Tor



Top left photo shows His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, as he stood on the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica at 6:00 P. M. on 5 June 1944 and addressed the large throng (partly shown in lower left photo). Photo on the right shows a close-up of the Pope.

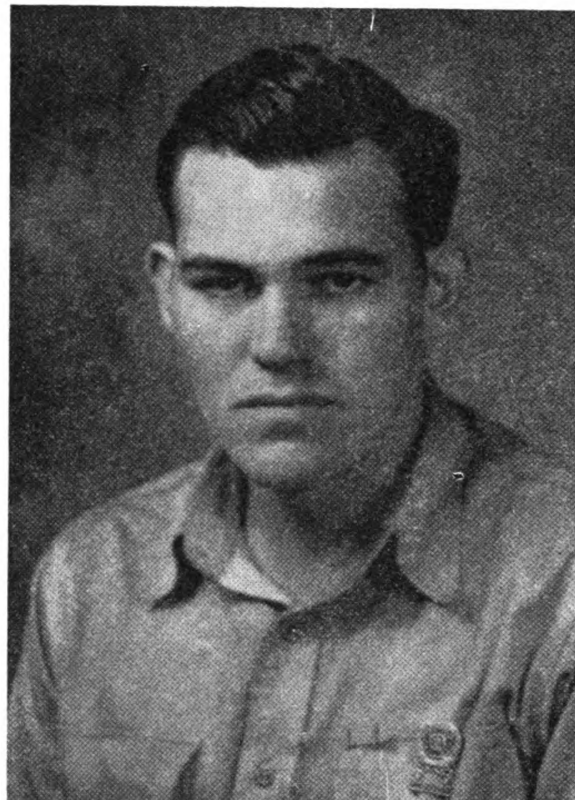
Sapienza on the outskirts of the city. The morning of the 5th the White and Blue Battalions moved into the Eternal City by vehicle.

The welcome received by the "liberators" in the first axis capital to be freed was tumultuous and overwhelming. It was an experience never to be forgotten by those who made the entry. The Romans lined the streets by thousands. Nuns lined the little children up in front of the churches and schools and led them in waving greetings and blessings to their liberators. Dusty and weary "dog-faces" of the Seventh Infantry after months of fighting

mand of all troops in the city. In reward for its great part in the two long Italian campaigns, and for the fact that one of its great battalions had been first to enter the city the "Rock of the Marne" Division was selected to be the first garrison troops of Rome while bitter fighting was still being waged along the Tiber River and the Mediterranean, between the British and Germans. Heavy fighting was still taking place to the east near Highway 5 where the British Eighth Army was making steady progress. In the fall of Rome the German Army had suffered one of its greatest defeats.



Born with the Seventh Infantry on 31 August 1907, Lieutenant Colonel John J. Toffey, III, served as Executive Officer of the Regiment on 3 June 1944 when he was killed in action.



Staff Sergeant Montie P. Noble of Company "A" died of wounds on 7 June 1944.

and living in the filth and squalor of North Africa, Sicily and Southern Italy, and in the water-filled foxholes of Anzio were then back in civilization; Rome for a long time the very center of civilization itself. Instead of wading across treacherous waters or through mine fields and barbed wire in the face of deadly hostile fire, "Cotton Balers" waded through throngs of wildly demonstrating, enthusiastic Romans who showered flowers and friendly greetings on the liberators. For the first time since leaving home the men saw a clean, well-kept city with beautiful homes, parks, and boulevards.

While the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments passed through the "Cotton Baler" Red Battalion and secured all bridges in the city over the famous Tiber River the Seventh Infantry went into bivouac in the lovely Villa Borghese gardens near the Porto del Popolo.

At 1000 hours, 5 June, the American Third Infantry Division took over all of Rome and at that time its commanding general, Brigadier General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, assumed responsibility for the com-

Pope Pius XII came out on the central balcony of the great Saint Peter's Basilica and addressed a throng of 200,000 in the Piazza San Pietro, composed mostly of Roman civilians and a handful of American Infantrymen.

The period of occupation in Rome was short-lived for soon the "rear echelon Johnnies", the allied military government, peninsula base section and countless sundry, miscellaneous and extraneous units invaded the city and literally took over. Many Seventh Infantrymen in their joyousness and enthusiasm of occupying Rome thought that the combat days of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment and the Third Infantry Division were over for World War II—but that was not to be. It was a great disappointment to the "dogfaces" to have to leave the Eternal City.

During the short time spent in the Eternal City the "Cotton Balermen" took full advantage to see the great sights which may be found nowhere else in the world. Catholics of the Regiment, and others too, visited Saint

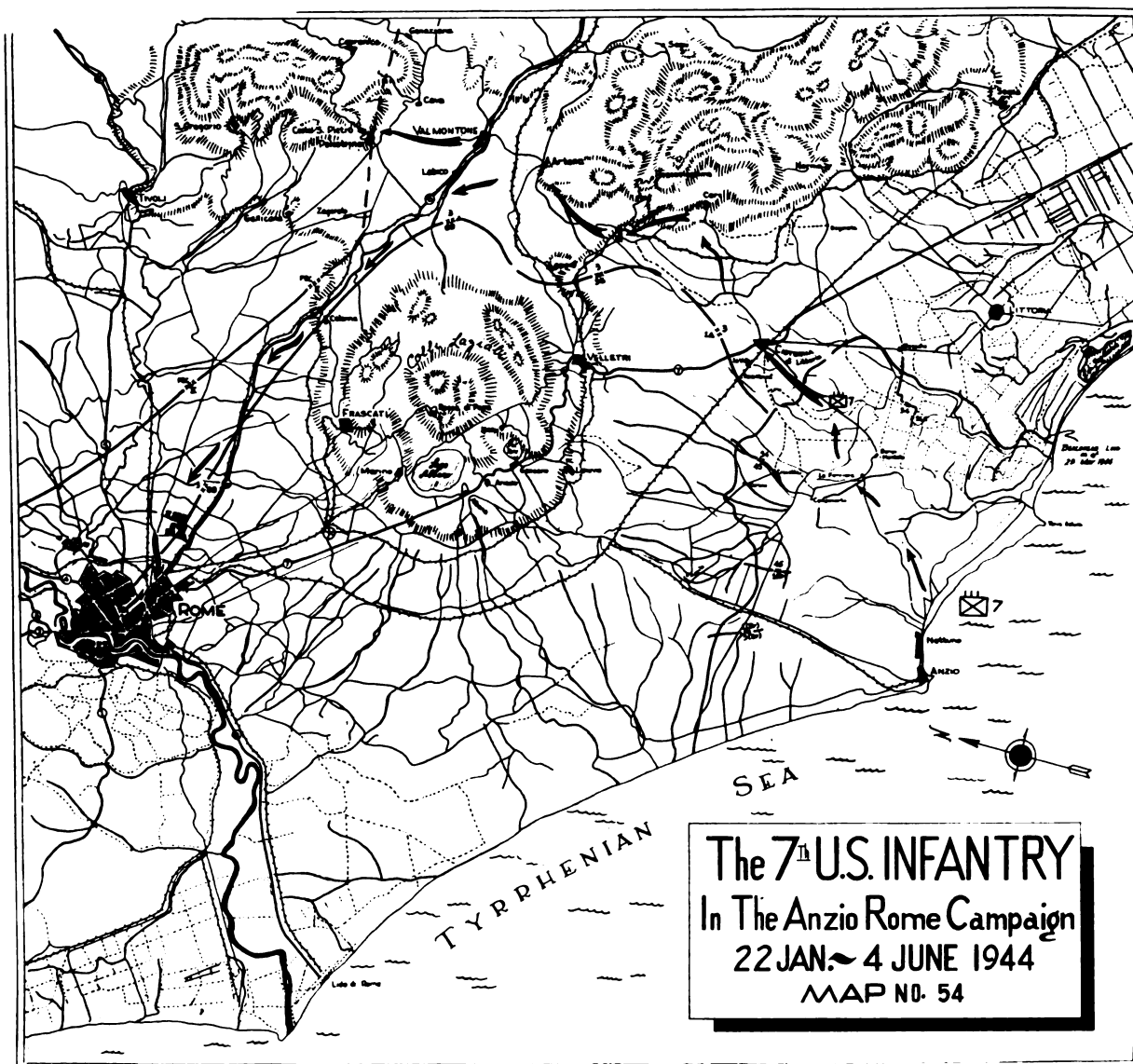
Peter's and Vatican City, had audiences with the Pope, and visited the other great basilicas of Santa Maria Maggiore, San Paolo and San Giovanni Laterano. The Colosseum, the Catacombs, Castle San Angelo and Hadrian's Tomb, the Forum and countless other attractions of the old Roman Empire were seen. The beautiful public buildings of Rome and the parks were a main attraction. Some went to see Mussolini Stadium. Then there were those who cared not for the past attractions of Rome or visiting the beautiful churches, their interest was in the hotels, wine, women and song and they enjoyed themselves to the utmost.

On 14 June the garrison duty was but a memory, for once again the Seventh Infantry moved, and everyone knew it was back to the wars once more. Bidding farewell to the Eternal City the Regiment moved by motor to a temporary bivouac area at Lido di Roma on the Mediterranean. Preparations were made immediately for another move and on the 20th the troops moved by vehicle to Anzio, the scene of former great struggles. From there the Seventh Infantry returned to the Naples area by water and land transportation.

SUMMARY

The Anzio-Rome Campaign was the costliest campaign engaged in by the Seventh United States Infantry in World War II. Over 3,000 battle casualties were suffered by the Regiment, a complete turn-over of the organization. A total of 729, practically all killed in action, gave their lives; 1950 were wounded in action; 92 were missing from the action and 262 had been taken prisoners by the enemy.

The campaign itself consisted of (1) an amphibious landing which was practically unopposed and was the easiest one of the four participated in by the Regiment in World War II; (2) the major attack of 30-31 January 1944 to break out of the beachhead which was stopped by the enemy with heavy losses; (3) almost four months of defensive and stationary warfare during which time enemy attempts to wipe out the beachhead were repulsed; (4) the breakthrough from the beachhead and the drive into Rome.



PART FIVE

From the Riviera to the Rhine—15 August-20 December 1944

CHAPTER I

The Invasion and Campaign of Southern France

June 1944 was a month in which the German armies were harder pressed than ever before in World War II. The major Allied offensive launched in Italy the month before was in full swing. Shattering blows which liquidated several divisions had been struck against the enemy in Italy. Rome had been captured for the first time in history from the south. An all-out pursuit of the enemy was being made north of the Tiber when on 6 June the Allies launched the long-awaited, cross-channel invasion at Normandy. While fighting raged in France and Italy, the Soviet armies commenced a massive attack across the Pripet Marshes on 22 June. Defending against major attacks on three fronts the German armies faced defeat in World War II.

By the end of June, however, the Germans had halted the Allied advance in Italy and had thrown the invasion forces in northern France off schedule. The Allies then decided to launch their fourth major assault within three months by a second invasion of France. The time was set for 15 August and the Riviera coast was selected for the point of attack. About six weeks elapsed between the time of decision and the time of execution for the second invasion, and during that time the Allied armies in Italy were confronted with the defenses of the Pisa-Rimini line. The Allied armies in France were breaking the resistance of the German 7th Army. On the east front the Russian forces were driving the Germans back, had separated the Baltic countries at Riga, reached the borders of East Prussia, and were in Warsaw in Poland.

Although the invasion of southern France was not ordered until 2 July 1944, plans for such an operation had been formulated quite some time previous. The tactical situation had not permitted an earlier execution of the operation. Even then, it has been stated, some of the strategists favored another operation:

As far back as 1 April 1943 the eyes of the Allied forces in the Mediterranean were focusing on a possible landing in southern France. By December 1943 the scheme had reached the point of decision, and a directive was issued to General Eisenhower to the effect that it would take place during the following month of May. Intensive planning began at once in accordance with an Allied Force Headquarters directive of 29 December. On 4 February the combined planning staffs of Air, Army, and Navy met to compare views and on 31 March the first Provisional Outline Air Plan was issued.

Shortly thereafter, however, the stalemate in Italy forced a recasting of plans, and it was decided to shelve the plan and concentrate on a decision in the battle for Rome. The battle began on 11-12 May and almost immediately inflicted a shattering defeat upon the German armies. The Allies had just captured Rome and were in all-out pursuit of the disorganized enemy during early June when the Normandy assault began; it was clearly inadvisable to halt in the middle of success (in Italy) to invade southern France.

Not until the end of the month was the decision to execute the program finally made. By then the Allied armies in Italy had largely exploited their success and were slowing down in front

of the formidable Pisa-Rimini defense line. And in Normandy, though Cherbourg had been taken and the beachhead secured, the Allied armies were temporarily stalled and had fallen definitely behind schedule. Action was wanted and wanted quickly. Most of the high command in the Mediterranean would have preferred to concentrate on advancing the rest of the way up Italy and thence into the Hungarian plain. However, on 2 July invasion was decided upon, with direction that it be launched on 15 August.¹

The American Seventh Army, this time under the direction of Major General Alexander M. Patch who came from the Pacific Theatre of Operations, was assigned the mission of executing the operation against southern France which was known as "Dragoon" and was the sixth operation aimed as a whole at southern Europe.² The Seventh Army had not seen action since the Sicilian Campaign, after which all its combat divisions had been assigned either to the Fifth Army or sent to England to await the Normandy invasion.

The amphibious and airborne invasion was preceded by air attacks on southern France. The air operations really began on 28 April 1944 when heavy bombers attacked Toulon. Between that date and 10 August the Mediterranean Allied Air Force flew more than 6,000 sorties and dropped 12,500 tons of bombs on southern France. Not all those operations were designed specifically to precede the 7th Army assault but they contributed to the success of the operation. While those operations were conducted the XII Tactical Air Command, which was assigned the air assault missions for the actual invasion, established itself in Corsica by constructing airdromes and bulding up supplies and personnel on the island.³

The plans for the invasion of southern France were nearly cancelled altogether. At the eleventh hour practically, on 10 August 1944, Allied Force Headquarters asked the G-4 Planning Section of Headquarters, Services of Supply, North African Theatre of Operations for comments on a proposed plan "to take the whole 'Dragoon' assault force and strike at the southern coast of Brittany. That would have involved a shift of 1,560 miles in the point of attack. Because of uncertain logistics of such an operation, G-4 did not concur."⁴ With the assault troops already loading landing craft vessels no more thought was given to a change in plans.

¹ "The AAF in the Invasion of Southern France", Hq. Army Air Forces, Wash., D. C., 1945, p. 3.

² The first five operations were (1) "Torch" against North Africa; (2) "Husky" against Sicily; (3) "Avalanche" against Italy; (4) "Shingle" for the Anzio Beachhead, and (5) "Brassard", the all-French attack on Elba.

³ "The AAF in the Invasion of Southern France", op. cit. p. 4.

⁴ "American Enterprise in Europe, the Role of the SOS in the Defeat of Germany", I & E Div. USFET, Paris, 1945, pp. 77-78.

The major purposes behind the "Dragoon" operation were (1) to assist the Normandy attack by engaging German forces that might otherwise be used in northern France; (2) to capture a major port through which large scale re-inforcements could flow; (3) to liberate France; and (4) to join up with the cross-channel invasion for the decisive battle with the German armies of the west. The initial assignment of the American Seventh Army, as stated in its Field Order No. 1, was to assault the south coast of France, secure a beachhead east of Toulon and then assault and capture Toulon. Thereafter its intention was to advance toward Lyon or Vichy or westward to the Atlantic as determined by developments, eventually joining up with the Allied armies in northern France."⁵



The three 7th Infantry chaplains and their assistants assembled in the Piano di Quarto bivouac area on 2 August 1944. Standing, l. to r., were T/5 Albert F. Solarz, T/5 Fred L. Shorey, T/5 Isaac Van Der Jagt. Chaplain Raymond E. Vint, Chaplain Didrick Mydland. Front: Pfc Elisee A. Dutil, Regt Hqrs Co., and Chaplain Chevis F. Horne.

Seventh Army assigned the VI American Corps the mission of making the assault against southern France with three crack American Infantry divisions abreast, namely, the 3rd, 36th and 45th Divisions, which had all been relieved of fighting for Fifth Army in Italy and placed in assembly and training areas.

From 28 June to 7 August 1944 the Seventh Infantry Regiment conducted a vigorous training schedule which brought its ranks of green and veteran troops to the highest state of physical fitness and psychological readiness for the new combat mission. For the very few who had come all the way with the Regiment it was about the same kind of conditioning and amphibious training engaged in in the States, North Africa, and Italy for the



Colonel O'Mohundro speaks to the members of the Seventh Infantry in the bivouac area on 3 August 1944.

other big operations, but with some new features. To many the amphibious training was all new. Training was divided into six day periods. It was an arduous program with twenty-five mile hikes under the broiling Italian sun and through billowing clouds of the Italian dust. Practice amphibious landings were made and the Regiment participated in a division problem.

During the amphibious training several men were rescued from drowning in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Private Arthur D. Case of the Regimental Battle Patrol, who was later killed in action, Technical Sergeant John H. Earl and Private John P. Wall both of Company "B", and Private Harry Levy of Service Company were among those who at various times performed rescue missions.⁶

On Sunday, 2 August, a meeting of all officers of the Third Infantry Division was held. The VI Corps commander, Major General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., and the Third Division commander, Major General John W. O'Daniel, spoke to the officers. Major General Truscott, with pride reviewed the record of the Third Infantry Division, and in reference to the forthcoming operation stated: "There is no such thing as being pinned down by enemy fire. I will relieve any officer who sends in such a report."

The next day Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro gave a "fight talk" to all members of the Seventh Infantry. Many considered his speech better than those of the generals the day before. He informed the men of the big operation ahead but let them know they would not be alone in the assault. He told something of the great size and strength of the attacking force to which they belonged, and mentioned the great power of the supporting naval and air arms.

On 4 August a review of the Third Infantry Division was held before the new Seventh Army commanding general, Major General Alexander M. Patch. Major General Patch made several awards to members of the division and then made a brief talk. In the course of his remarks he stated that a short time before he had met the King of England, then said that he considered it a greater privilege and honor that day to review the troops of the Third Infantry Division who were about to embark on a great adventure.

On 7 August the Seventh Infantry commenced breaking bivouac in the Piano di Quarto area and on the 8th and 9th loaded its personnel and equipment on LCTs, LSTs and LCIs at Baia, Pozzuoli and Nisida near Naples.

PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

The plan of the VI American Corps⁷ was (1) make a daylight assault on the beaches from Cap Cavalaire to Agay employing three divisions abreast; (2) advance rapidly inland to contact the Provisional Airborne Division in the Le Muy area; (3) extend the beachhead and outpost the high ground north of St. Raphael and Frejus with sufficient forces to secure the airfield sites in the Argus Valley between Frejus and Le Muy; (4) seize Le Muy with a mobile striking force; (5) thereafter advance to the northwest maintaining contact with the First French Corps on the left after it was to be established ashore and in its subsequent attack on Toulon.

Prior to daylight on D-Day the First Special Service Force was to land on the islands of Port Gros and Levant and reduce all resistance thereon while a French Groupe de Commandos was to land in the vicinity of Cap Negre to destroy enemy defenses there, block the coastal highways and seize high ground two miles to the north.

⁵ "The AAF in the Invasion of Southern France", op. cit., p. 3.

⁶ GOs No. 113, 252 & 304, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 Aug., 5 Nov. & 31 Dec. '44. S/Sgt Case (posthumously), T/Sgt. Earl, Pvt. Wall & Levy were each awarded the Soldier's Medal.

⁷ FO No. 12, Hq. 3d Inf. Div. (reinf.) Naples, Italy, 1 Aug. 1944.

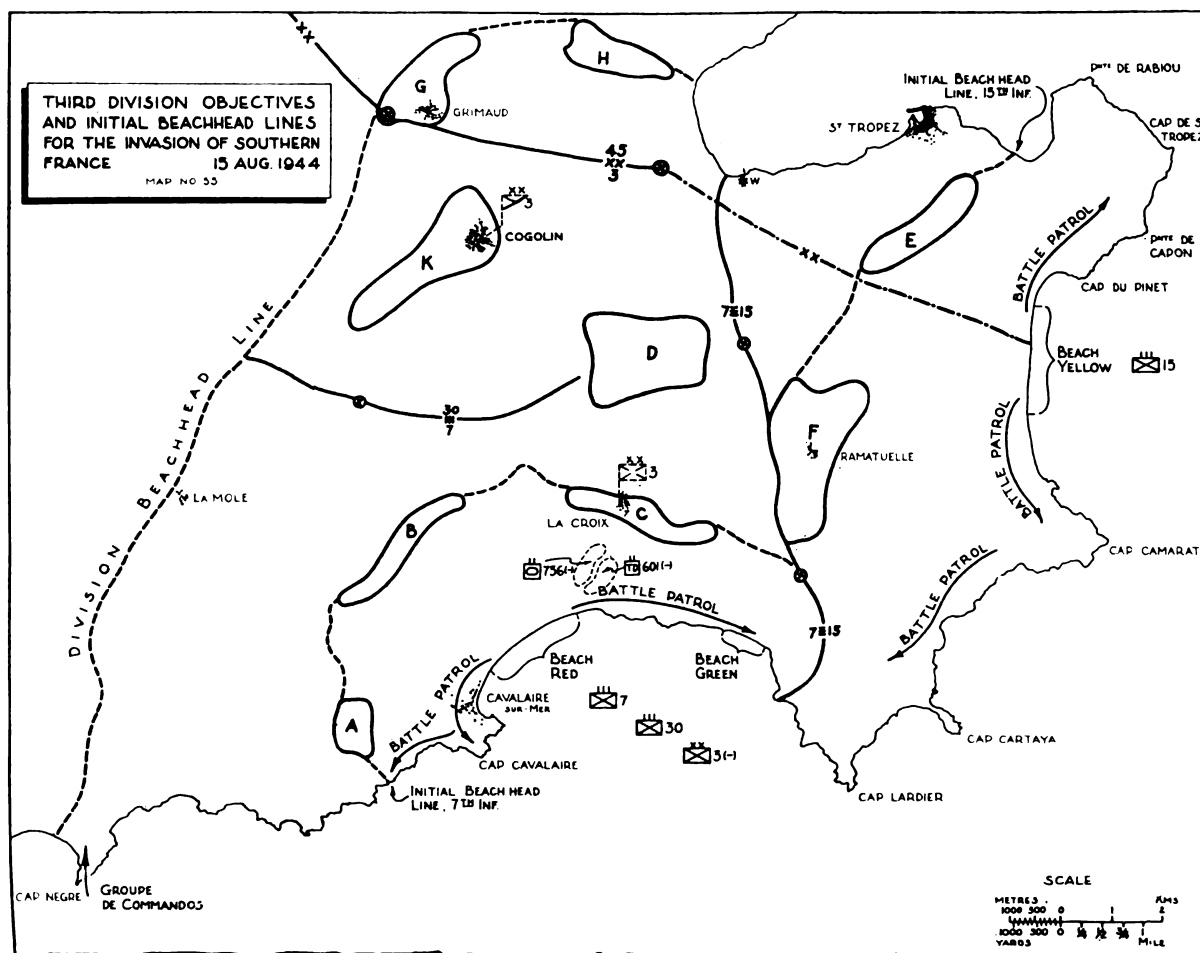
The Provisional Airborne Division was to land on the high ground north, west and south of Le Muy with the primary mission of preventing the movement of enemy forces into the assault area from the west and northwest and with the secondary mission of assaulting enemy defenses from the rear.

The assaulting echelon of the three crack American Infantry Divisions was the 3rd, 45th and 36th from left to right. The mission of the Third Infantry Division which was given the tactical code name of "Alpha Force", "Alpha" meaning first, was to land on the beaches designated as Red and Yellow and clear them of all enemy resistance; to capture San Tropez, Grimaud and Cogolin and clear the San Tropez peninsula with all possible speed; to advance rapidly and aggressively inland co-ordinating all elements at the earliest possible moment and to continue the advance with utmost speed to the Corps beachhead line, prepared to advance west on Corps order; to destroy all resistance encountered; to employ

As in all its major amphibious assaults the Third Infantry Division designated the Seventh Infantry Regiment to be in its assault wave. The 15th Infantry was named as the second assault regiment and the 30th Infantry was named the reserve regiment. The "Cotton Balers" were given Beach Red to land on while the "Can Do's" were assigned Beach Yellow.

Providing naval gunfire support for the Division were one battleship in general support of both beaches, and six light cruisers and five destroyers assigned to support individual beaches. Smaller craft carrying guns or rockets were also given missions of firing on beach defenses. Primary mission of the warships was to neutralize enemy land-based artillery. No important enemy interference from the sea was expected.

A prearranged bombardment of known battery positions was to begin at H minus 90 and continue until H plus 15 minutes, when the warships were to take over certain sectors of responsibility in support of the landing



mobile armored reconnaissance detachments landing with the leading elements, to reconnoiter all roads in its zone and to gain contact with the French Groupe de Commandos in the vicinity of Cap Negre; to protect the Corps left flank and coordinate its advance with the 45th Infantry Division on the right. When passed through by elements of the First French Corps in the left of its zone the Division was to regroup the elements passed through for continued offensive action in the right of its zone.

and fire on targets observed by spotting planes and shore fire control parties. There were nine of these parties, tied-in not only with their respective ships but also with the naval liaison officer at Division Artillery Headquarters. This arrangement in effect gave the division a naval fire direction center, by which the fire of all supporting warships could be massed on suitable targets.

The Corps Air plan provided for a detailed schedule of attack for two days preceding the operation by a

powerful force of planes, as well as strong general support on D-day via counter battery missions, pre-H-Hour bombardment of enemy beach defenses and attack of nearby enemy airdromes. Available were the following air units: 4 fighter groups, 5 fighter-bomber groups, 7 medium bomber groups, 21 heavy bomber groups, 3 tactical reconnaissance squadrons and approximately 200 carrier-based planes.

The air effort before D-day was to be directed against enemy air forces, lines of communication, and coastal defense batteries between Genoa and the Spanish border. Offshore of Red Beach, air reconnaissance had revealed that the enemy was in the process of putting concrete tetrahedra in the water; however, it was not believed that there were enough in position to interfere seriously with the landing.

Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro's plans⁸ were for the Second and Third Battalions, with the Second on the right, to assault Beach Red at H-Hour and reduce all beach defenses in the Regimental zone of action. The remainder of the Regiment was to land in accordance with a landing schedule, advance rapidly to the initial beachhead line and destroy all enemy forces in the zone of action. The initial beachhead line in the Regiment's zone of action was to be occupied with particular attention to Areas "A", "B" and "C" to hold enemy forces beyond that line. Upon the seizure of Objective "C" a rapid advance was to be made on Objective "D" which was to be seized and held. The Regimental Battle Patrol and the attached 30th Infantry Battle Patrol were assigned missions to assist in the clearance of the beach defenses. Contact was to be established and maintained with the 15th Infantry on the right and an aggressive reconnaissance made toward Cap Negre to establish and maintain contact with the French Groupe de Commandos. The Regiment had the mission of protecting the Third Division's left flank and on order to advance in its zone from Objectives "A", "B" and "D" to seize and hold the final Division beachhead line. It was to be prepared to continue the advance to the west along the axis of Highway 98, west through La Mole.

The Second Battalion, with the 30th Infantry Battle Patrol, two tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and one tank destroyer of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, was directed, after destroying all beach defenses in its zone, to reorganize along the coordinating line X-Y (see Map No. 56) and then advance rapidly to the initial beachhead line destroying all enemy encountered. A strong combat patrol was to be sent generally along the route shown to Point Z to establish and maintain a road block at that point until relieved by the 15th Infantry, at which time the patrol would return to the battalion. The White Battalion was to employ the 30th Infantry Battle Patrol to assist in clearing beach defenses east of Beach Red to the Regimental beachhead line and make contact with the Third Reconnaissance Troop Battle Patrol at Point C-1. Upon reaching the contact point the patrol was to continue the advance if contact had not been made. Following establishment of contact, the patrol was to return along the coast line to assemble and join the Second Battalion on order. The key terrain features of Objective "C" on the initial beachhead line were to be occupied by the battalion troops. A strong combat patrol supported by the battalion's attached armor was to advance along the road to La Croix and when the objective was to be taken establish Road Block No. 1. All enemy in La Croix were to be isolated and destroyed. Following the capture of Objective "C" the battalion was to be prepared to advance on Regimental order to seize and hold the key terrain features of Objective "D" and then establish Road

Block No. 2. Enemy forces in Gassin were to be isolated and destroyed. Following the capture of Objective "D" the battalion was to be prepared to support the 30th Infantry by fire from all its available weapons. When passed through on Objective "D" by the 30th Infantry and when fire support could not longer be given, the battalion was to reorganize and be prepared on order to assemble in Regimental Reserve or to attack to the west.

The Third Battalion, with the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, two tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and one destroyer of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion attached, was directed, after destroying all beach defenses in its zone, to reorganize the battalion less one company along the coordinating line M-N (see Map No. 56) and then advance rapidly to the initial beachhead line and destroy all enemy in its zone of action. One company was to be sent along the route shown to seize and hold Objective "B". All enemy in Cavalaire-sur-Mer were to be isolated and destroyed and the battalion was to seize Objective "A", then send a strong combat patrol to clear resistance between Objectives "A" and "B" and to establish contact at the contact point "Texas" with the company from Objective "B". Road block No. 3 was to be established. The battalion was directed to employ the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol to assist in clearing beach defenses west of Red Beach along the coast to the Regimental beachhead line and to establish and maintain contact with the French Groupe de Commandos in the vicinity of Cap Negre. The Third Battalion was to be prepared to continue the offensive action to the west to seize and hold the Division Beachhead Line with particular attention to Objectives A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5 and A-6. It was to protect the Regiment's left flank.

Upon the capture of their objectives both of the assault battalions were to patrol aggressively to the front and flanks.

If no underwater obstacles were encountered or if obstacles would not prevent the beaching of LCVPs the assault battalions were to discharge red smoke grenades immediately on beaching. When enemy defenses in the immediate beach area were neutralized assault troops were to discharge violet smoke grenades on the order of the battalion commanders only, however. Yellow smoke grenades were to be used to indicate the presence of friendly troops to friendly airplanes. In the event underwater obstacles were encountered that would prevent LCVPs from beaching, a green parachute flare was to be discharged from each LCVF encountering difficulty.

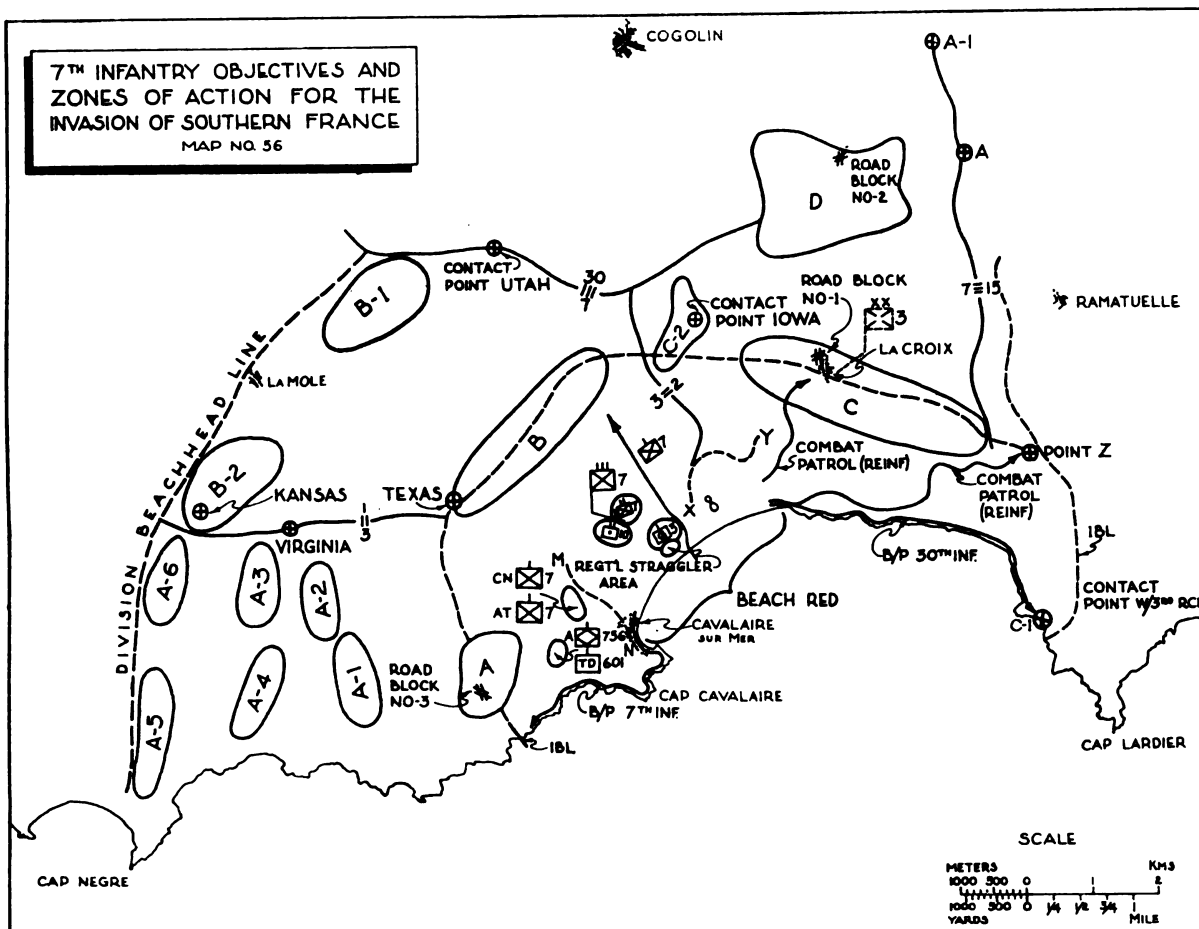
Should enemy opposition interfere seriously with the landing of craft other than LCVPs the naval commander was to order "Treadmill" executed, at which time craft would circle off shore until the opposition would be reduced. Craft carrying tanks or self-propelled weapons were to be so loaded as to permit maximum delivery of fire against the beaches.

The First Battalion was scheduled to land at H + 30 and to clear the beach of any remaining resistance. It was to assemble with utmost speed in Regimental Reserve (see Map No. 56) and send a strong combat patrol to seize and hold Objective C-2, destroying all enemy encountered and make contact with the Second Battalion at contact point "Iowa". The Red Battalion was to be prepared to move to meet counter-attacks from any direction or, on order, to assist in the capture of Objective "B", or to pass through that objective and continue the offensive action to the west along Highway

⁸ FO No. 12, Hq. 7th Infantry (reinf.), Naples, Italy, 2 Aug. 1944.

98 through La Mole to the Division beachhead line, with particular attention to Objectives B-1 and B-2. It was to be prepared to continue the advance to the west, maintaining contact with the 30th Infantry on the right at contact point "Utah" and the Third Battalion on the left at contact points "Virginia" and "Kansas".

begin sweeping the road of mines southwest to Cavalaire-sur-Mer and the other to clear the main road northeast through La Croix. As soon as the 10th Engineer Battalion should be established ashore Company "A" would revert to battalion control and be in support rather than in attachment to the Regiment.



Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies were to land on Beach Red on call. Upon landing, Anti-Tank Company was to attach one platoon (57mm) to the Third Battalion in the vicinity of Objective "A" and a similar platoon to the Second Battalion in the vicinity of Objective "C". Cannon Company was, upon landing, to immediately assemble in its assigned area (see Map No. 56) and be prepared to assist the battalions by fire and to occupy direct fire positions for anti-tank defense. Both of the company commanders were to report to the Regimental commander when their companies were assembled.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion with the 634th Field Artillery Battalion minus one firing battery and Battery "C", 36th Field Artillery Battalion, were to land commencing at H + 100, reconnoiter and occupy positions in the area shown, be prepared to support the Regiment and place fire on Highway No. 98.

Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, attached for the initial phase, was to be in direct support of the Regiment for the clearing of mines, repair and maintenance of such roads and bridges as the situation might require. Two mine detector parties with three mine detectors each were to land with the Infantry. One party was to

Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to land the remainder of their companies not attached to the two assault battalions on call, assemble in areas shown and be prepared on Regimental order to move with utmost speed in any direction to meet enemy counter-attacks.

Company "A", 3rd Chemical Battalion, was to land on call, assemble in its assigned area, reconnoiter for and occupy positions and be prepared to support the Regiment by fire.

The Regimental Medical Detachment and Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, were to establish aid stations and execute evacuation missions.

Service Company, Seventh Infantry, was to land on call to establish and operate the rear echelon of the Regiment in the vicinity of inshore dumps.

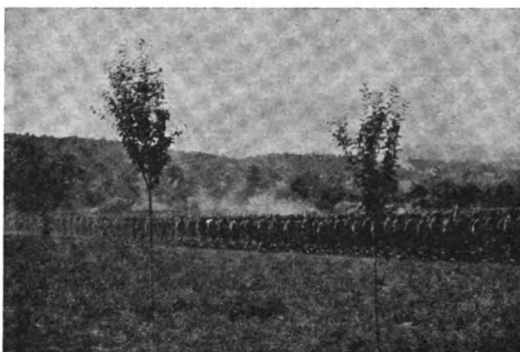
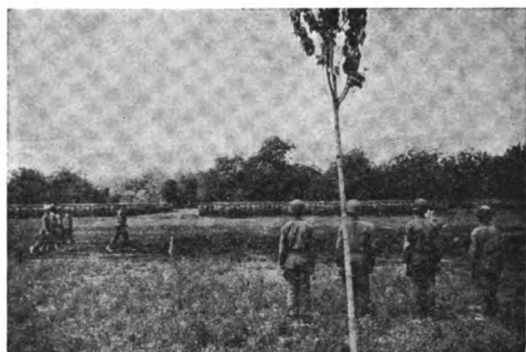
Regimental Headquarters Company with a Detachment of 3rd Signal Company and a Prisoner of War Interrogation Team was to land behind the Red Battalion as desired by the Regimental Commander to establish and operate the Regimental Command Post. A traffic control platoon was to patrol the beach and collect and guide all Seventh Infantry personnel to the assembly

areas and assist in guiding Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, the attached tanks, destroyers and chemical mortars to their respective assembly areas when they should land. Assistance was to be rendered to the Regimental S-4 and Service Company Commander in the handling of vehicles. All battalions and separate units were to provide guides at the Regimental Straggler assembly areas.

Study of the terrain in the Third Infantry Division zone of action showed that the general topography consisted of a low mountainous area with a few small plains where the large streams enter the bays. The mountains generally rise directly behind the beaches to an altitude of 1,000 to 1,500 feet in elevation. In the western sector there is a small plain about three miles long and two miles wide, southeast of Bormes. The largest plain, about six miles long and two miles wide, lies at the head of the Golfe de St. Tropez. The peninsula bounded by the Golfe de St. Tropez and the Baie De Cavalaire is generally a low plain, which rises from sea level to an elevation of 300 feet. The coast line is irregular with rocky headlands and small beaches at the head of sheltered caves.

the coast to Cavalaire-sur-Mer and to St. Tropez. A small branch of the same railroad runs to Cogolin. The main railroad, a double-tracked, standard gauge railroad from Toulon to St. Raphael runs through the Toulon-St. Raphael Corridor and is about fourteen miles inland. There is a limited network of good roads in the beach-head area. The principal road is Route 98, a good two-way, tar-macadam or surface-treated macadam road. Route 559 turns off Highway 98 about two miles west of Bormes and follows the coast line to a point one mile northeast of Cavalaire-sur-Mer, where it goes up the valley to La Croix and St. Tropez.

The mountain slopes are covered with scattered woods of evergreen, oak, maple and holly. The lower mountain slopes are usually terraced and cultivated primarily to vineyards and olive groves. The Baie De Cavalaire, a C-shaped bay open to the south, is four miles wide at its entrance between Cap De Cavalaire on the west and Cap Lardier on the east. The bay has two beaches, one on the east between Pointe Vergeron and Pointe Dubrevil and one on the west from Pointe de Cavalaire to la Bouillabais. The west beach was the one designated as Red Beach upon which the Seventh Infantry was to



Views of the Third Infantry Division review on 4 August 1944 in Italy.

The drainage is generally south to the sea and north to the La Mole and Grande rivers. Drainage is good due to the slope of the terrain and the porous soil. No surface water would be found.

There are two ridge systems in the area, one of which rises between the coast line and La Mole River Valley and runs generally from Bormes. The other ridge line lies about eight miles inland between La Mole River Valley and the Toulon-St. Raphael corridor. The valleys run generally southwest-northeast, and are narrow with little flood land.

For the communications system in the area a single track narrow-gauge railroad line runs from Toulon along

land. The town Cavalaire-sur-Mer stands directly behind the southwest end of the beach.

At 400 yards off shore in six fathoms there was good anchorage anywhere with a bottom of mud and weeds and good holding ground. Red Beach itself is about 3,900 yards in length and from 20 to 50 yards in width, and is a sand beach backed by a narrow belt of tree-covered dunes, behind which is the coast road and railway. There are suitable exits for personnel anywhere and a number for vehicles. In the southwestern half the beach is backed by wooded slopes and the outskirts of the village of Cavalaire-sur-Mer. In the eastern half the hinterland consists of cultivated fields.

It was expected that the enemy would have the beach moderately defended with minor beach defenses consisting of three casemates, eight definite pillboxes, one probable pillbox. At least seventeen machine guns were thought to cover the entire beach with their fields of fire. In the western quarter of the beach was a battery of two light anti-aircraft guns and at its western extremity were two three-gun light, anti-aircraft batteries. A searchlight was reported at about the center of the beach and there was also one fixed single gun at the western end. Beach mines were reported along the eastern three-fourths of the beach and in several places at the western end, some of which were confirmed by aerial photographs. Barbed wire extended 800 yards parallel to and in the center of the beach. Offshore, the Baie De Cavalaire was reported mined between Pointe De Cavalaire and "La Bouillabaisse Restaurant" at a maximum depth of ten fathoms.

THE ENEMY SITUATION

Though the Allied threat to the Riviera had been obvious for months, the hard-pressed Germans had been obliged to pull away a sizeable proportion of the forces they had allocated to defend it. In the area of southern France, south of the Loire River, there were believed to be thirteen identified divisions on 28 July. Of that number nine were classified as limited employment divisions and four as offensive or field divisions. The group of nine limited employment units consisted of four Infantry divisions and five reserve divisions. The four offensive divisions included two panzer formations and two newly arrived Infantry divisions which were reported in a depleted state. In addition, the 341st Assault Gun Brigade, consisting of an estimated thirty assault guns, was located in the Narbonne area.

In addition to the divisional armor there was estimated to be about fourteen general headquarters tank battalions in France and the low countries. It was considered reasonable to assume that at least three of the tank battalions would be found garrisoned in southern France. About sixteen Ost or Russian Battalions had been located in various parts of Southern France. Also there had been identified several battalions of Tartars, Armenians, Hindus, Turcomans and Czechs. Some foreigners, notably the Ukrainians, had been organized under the supervision of the German SS and performed police duties in the area.

The combat efficiency of the limited employment divisions was considered quite decreased because of the apparent deficiency in heavy armament, a general deficiency in both horse and motor transport was a consequent lack of mobility, plus the possibility that a greater number of older model weapons would be found in that type unit. The increased percentage of "Volksdeutsche" found in the units also made for decreased combat efficiency. However, the fact that many troops were young and fresh, and the fact that the Germans had been retraining a number of seasoned troops returned from active fronts, and convalescents, was considered.

The offensive divisions would probably be of a fairly high calibre, due to an increase in equipment, plus the fact that the veterans from previous campaigns constituted more than a mere backbone of the unit.

Depleted was the German Air Force in southern France. It was estimated the Germans might be able to scrape together 150 long range bombers, 30 bomber reconnaissance and 100 single engine fighters and fighter bombers.

No major enemy naval forces were considered to be active in the Western Mediterranean, the German naval defenses were considered to be but a handful of destroyers

and torpedo boats, escort vessels or corvettes, and minor units.

For the invasion the "Allies had marshalled a force with a clear-cut and overwhelming superiority in every respect. Against the weak German divisions the United States Seventh Army could throw in a stronger force of crack United States and French Divisions, plus an assortment of paratroop, commando, and special service forces. Against the Luftwaffe's 280 furtive aircraft the Mediterranean Allied Airforces mustered 5,000. Against the dinky German naval units was assembled 450 United States, British, French and Italian warships, including five battle ships and ten aircraft carriers."⁹

LINE UP OF THE 7TH INFANTRY FOR ITS FOURTH MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

For the impending invasion the Seventh Infantry was to be led by wiley Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro, who had successfully directed the operations out of the Anzio Beachhead and into Rome. His executive officer was Lieutenant Colonel Victor E. Sinclair and the Regimental Staff consisted of Captain Irving R. Wyeth as S-3, Captain Lee L. Dymock as S-2, Major Richard A. Smith as S-4, and Captain Richard T. Young as S-1. Captain Reubin H. Brown was Assistant S-3, First Lieutenant Eric A. Sturley Assistant S-2, and the Liaison Officers were First Lieutenants John D. Foulk and Joseph E. Shepard and Second Lieutenant Nathan W. White.



Lt. Col. Everett W. Duvall commanded the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, for five separate periods during World War II, or for a greater total of days than any other commander. The periods during which he commanded the White Battalion were: (1) 13 April to 29 June 1943; (2) 4 July to 24 September 1943; (3) 5 to 18 October 1943; (4) 23 October to 11 November 1943, and (5) 10 January to 16 July 1944.

Leading the battalions were the veteran Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour of the First, Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro who had replaced Lieutenant Colonel Everett W. Duvall¹⁰ as commander of the Second, and Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey of the Third, who had returned from the hospital.

Company commanders were Captains Tyler Campbell, Wright Hitt and William B. Stewart of "A", "B", "C", respectively and First Lieutenant Michael Miliska of Company "D" for the Red Battalion; Captains Frank L. Williams, Robert D. Marsh and Edgar H. Poinsett of "E", "F" and "G" respectively, and First Lieutenant John H. Jarvis Jr., of Company "H" for the White Battalion; Captains Francis J. Kret, John W. Blaikie and

⁹ "The AAF in the Invasion of Southern France", op. cit., p. 2.

¹⁰ Lt. Col. Duvall transferred to the 45th Div. 16 July 1944 and assumed command of the 180th Infantry.

Ralph J. Yates of "I", "K" and "L" respectively and First Lieutenant Lucius S. Davis of Company "M" for the Blue Battalion.

Separate unit commanders were First Lieutenant William K. Dieleman of the Battle Patrol and Captain Henry C. Goulette of Anti-Tank Company, Captain Robert V. Horton of Cannon Company, Captain James N. Pearman Jr., of Regimental Headquarters Company and Captain Winston G. Whall of Service Company. The Medical Detachment was led by Major Ralph W. Isaac. Captains Chevis F. Horne, Didrik Mydland and Raymond E. Vint were the chaplains.

THE INVASION OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

On 9-10 August, 1944, the craft bearing the Seventh Infantry pulled away from the ports of Naples and rendezvoused in the Gulfs of Naples and Salerno. Many of the men swam in the warm waters of the Mediterranean during daylight hours.

On 12 August the mighty invasion armada sailed out of the bays and began the voyage that was to take it to the shores of France. Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain circled the line of craft in a speedy launch and waved "Good Luck" to the assaulting troops.

On 13 August the ships passed through the historic Bonifacio Strait that separates Sardinia from Corsica and entered the harbor of Ajaccio, Napoleon's birthplace, for another rendezvous that night, where many of the men again swam in the warm, blue waters of the Mediterranean.

While on the vessels pamphlets and maps were broken out and the men were briefed for the forthcoming operation against southern France, which was exactly no secret to them, except the actual landing places and time of D-Day and H-Hour. Currency was changed from Italian Lire to French Francs.

Lifting anchor on the 14th the vessels began the last lap of the journey and during the night of 14-15 August 1944 maneuvered into assigned areas off the coast of France. D-Day was dawning and H-Hour had been set for 0800.

The assault troops were alerted, given a light meal and went into the waiting LCVPs. Lazily the big guns swung shoreward and at exactly 0630 hours all hell let loose as the combined guns of the fleet blazed away. Overhead, thousands of bombers, in formation, disappeared into the mist. Then adding to the fury of the big guns, came the sound of exploding bombs. Dense, billowing clouds of smoke hid the shoreline. In the morning haze, the assault boats looked like doodle bugs as they darted hither and yon circling off shore, waiting for the naval guns and rocket launchers to lift their fire from the shore batteries and installations. The enemy made no answer to the naval gunfire.

Shortly before H-Hour the assault craft commenced darting shoreward and at 0800 the web-footed "dog-faces" of the Seventh Infantry hit Beach Red.

The Second Battalion with Companies "F", "G" and "E" and the 30th Infantry Battle Patrol, from left to right, swarmed ashore. Company "G" had two of its craft hit floating mines and blown to bits with forty men missing and "Fox" Company lost one boat with twenty of its men missing.

During the landing operations Staff Sergeant Hubert L. Aaron of Company "E", Private Jerome W. Geissler of Company "G", First Lieutenant Lawrence C. LaFevre, Staff Sergeant Addison L. Ross, Corporals Kenneth J. Clark and James R. Shipp, and Technician Fifth Grade Edward A. Bultrewicz, all of Company "H", performed with distinction.¹¹

Once ashore the Second Battalion moved rapidly through the beach obstacles and mine fields. At 0825 the battalion reported small arms and mortar fire from the right flank and enemy artillery fire was received. At 0850 the White Battalion troops were on the Line X-Y and a violet grenade was thrown signifying that the enemy defenses in its zone had been neutralized. Objective "C" in the vicinity of La Croix was taken at 1025 and the battalion awaited orders to move on "D", which were soon received. Contact was effected at Point C-1. Small groups of enemy were encountered on the objectives but quickly overcome. The 30th Infantry passed through the White Battalion shortly after noon and at 1420 the Second Battalion was on Objective "D" and



"Cotton Balers" wait their turn to load on the vessels that will take them on their "great adventure" to the shores of France. Capt. Frank L. Williams, veteran commander of Company "E", is shown in the photo at the left.

¹¹ GOs No. 29, 145, 228, 256, 263, 289 & 304, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Nov. & 31 Dec. '44 & 29 Jan., 29 Apr., 26 June, 15 July & 5 Aug., '45. S/Sgt. Aaron was awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. LaFevre, S/Sgt. Ross, Cpls. Clark & Shipp, T/5 Bultrewicz & Pvt. Geissler were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

contact was established with both the 15th and 30th Infantry.

The Third Battalion with the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, and Companies "K", "L" and "I", in order, from left to right, also hit its section of Beach Red on time and, except for the Battle Patrol, encountered little opposition. Company "I" took Objective "B" as the remainder of the battalion seized "A" with Road Block 3 established, and Company "K" drove on for Objective A-1. A patrol of Company "L" went to contact Point "Texas" to meet a patrol from "Item" Company.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol encountered the only stubborn enemy resistance that invasion morning while clearing Cavalaire-sur-Mer and the cape, which was its mission. The cape provided the enemy the best positions in the Seventh Infantry zone of action from which to hamper the landing operations and there the enemy had his only sizeable force in the area.

Sergeant James P. Connor of the Battle Patrol displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty that memorable day. As the patrol moved inland from the water a hanging mine exploded and killed one man and knocked Sergeant Connor to the ground, wounding him seriously in the neck. He ignored his wound and led his unit across the mine saturated beach through fire from mortars, 20mm flakwagon, a machine gun and snipers. En route to the cape he personally shot and killed two snipers and in turn an enemy sniper wounded him, with a shot in the left shoulder which penetrated his back. A platoon sergeant was killed and Sergeant Connor assumed command of his group. He reassured and prodded the hesitating men of his decimated section forward through the mortar concentrations. Emphasizing the importance of their mission he impelled the remaining men toward a group of buildings honeycombed with snipers and enemy machine guns. There he received his third grave wound, that time in the leg, which felled him to the ground. After unsuccessful attempts to stand and continue he gave orders from a prone position and directed his men in assaulting the enemy. Finally, because he was unable to continue, he relinquished command of his section to Sergeant Herman F. Nevers. Infused with Sergeant Connor's dogged determination the remainder of the section reduced to one-third of its original strength, outflanked and rushed the enemy with such furiousness that seven were killed and forty taken prisoners. Sergeant Connor was awarded the nation's highest valor award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.¹²

Staff Sergeant Albert J. Tetreault singlehandedly knocked out two enemy machine guns, killed one German and captured six others. Second Lieutenant John B. Leas by himself captured eighteen enemy soldiers in a dry wash. Private First Class Edward G. Collins, who killed three Germans and destroyed an enemy gun emplacement with grenades, and Private First Class James C. Eoff, who led a three-man mortar crew in the destruction of an enemy anti-tank gun and the killing of ten Germans, were two other members of the Battle Patrol who distinguished themselves.¹³ The Battle Patrol seized all its objectives and completed its mission.

Following the capture of Objective "A" the Third Battalion continued the attack along the coast road. By 1325 Blue troops had contacted the French Commandos in the vicinity of A-5 and A-4. The First Battalion which was in reserve landed on Beach Red forty-five minutes after the assault troops and moved rapidly to its assigned assembly area. At 1400 the Red troops moved for Objective "B" to relieve Company "I" as

the Third Battalion minus was on the Division Beachhead Line.

Major General O'Daniel called the Regimental Command Post from Division Headquarters at 1700 and ordered Colonel O'Mohundro to move the troops on to Highway 98, then west along the highway to the Corps Beachhead Line, which was generally along the twenty-one grid. In accordance with instructions the First Battalion attacked from Objective "B" and advanced north to Highway 98, then west and took La Mole.

During the night of 15-16 August 1944 the Third Battalion advanced west along the coastal road while the Red Battalion advanced west along Highway 98. Company "K" and the Battle Patrol, which was attached to the Third Battalion, led the advance and encountered strong, stubborn enemy delaying forces along the coastal road. Captain John W. Blaikie moved out ahead of his company in an effort to determine the enemy's positions. After cutting five trip wires attached to anti-personnel mines, he was wounded and stunned by a hand grenade that landed and exploded a few yards from him. Bullets from enemy machine guns raked the area. Captain Blaikie crawled back about one hundred yards to a friendly tank and directed fire which knocked out one enemy machine gun. The Germans retaliated with heavy rifle grenade, bazooka and machine gun fire and crippled the tank, and disorganized "King" Company. Around midnight Captain Blaikie rallied his company and led it through mined terrain in an assault that destroyed three enemy machine guns and inflicted heavy casualties. The little settlements of Le Rayol, Le Canadel, Cavaliere and Villa Adah were over-run but in the early morning of 16 August Company "K" and the Battle Patrol were held up by an enemy strong point in the vicinity of Pointe de Layet.

With his leading elements subjected to heavy machine gun, machine pistol, panzerfaust and rifle grenade fire Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey decided to flank the enemy position with his reserve units, Companies "I" and "L". The enemy's position on Pointe de Layet, a small peninsula, was left of the coastal road. To the right was high ground which commanded the area but it was heavily mined and zeroed-in by enemy mortars and artillery. Despite fire from the enemy weapons and the exploding mines the flanking forces accomplished their maneuver by about 1000 hours and nearly had the enemy forces sealed off. A heavy fight ensued then the enemy forces sought to escape through the claws of the pincers formed by Company "K" and the Battle Patrol on the left and Companies "I" and "L" on the right. A few enemy succeeded in escaping the trap. Three members of the First Mortar Squad (60mm) of Company "I" were sent across the road to fire at the enemy from behind a stone wall. The mortar men had no better luck than the riflemen as the numerous boulders in the area protected the enemy. Private First Class Juland A. Aaron then made a one-man assault on the enemy with hand grenades and succeeded in driving the Germans from behind one boulder after another and drove one group into a cave before it surrendered to him. When he captured a German captain and eleven enlisted men he broke the back of enemy resistance in the area. He had personally killed four Germans and wounded seven

¹² For authority see GO No. 18, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 15 Mar. 1945.

¹³ GOs No. 47, 59, 199 & 212, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Sept. & 6 Oct. '44 & 12 & 23 Feb. '45. 2 Lt. Leas, S/Sgt. Tetreault, Pfc Collins & Eoff were each awarded the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgt. Tetreault later received a battle field commission and was killed in action.

others who were picked up as prisoners by his comrades. For his extraordinary heroism and gallantry he was recommended for the award of a Distinguished Service Cross.

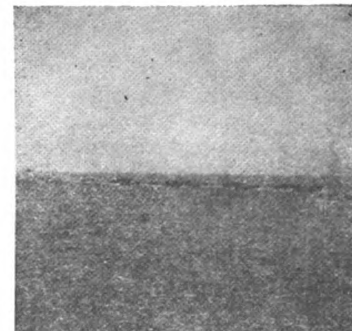
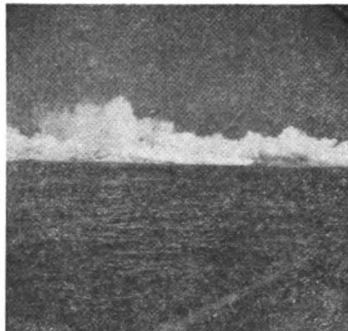
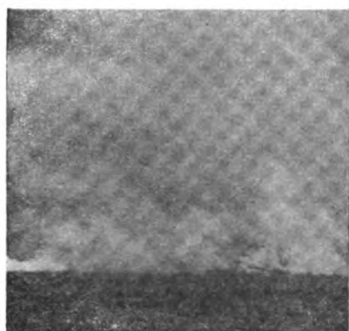
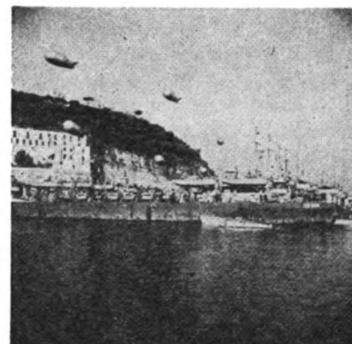
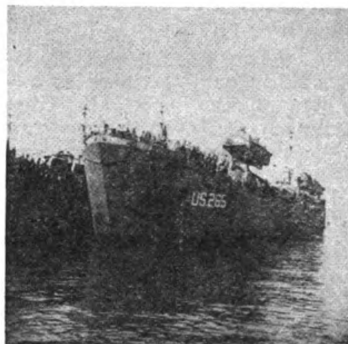
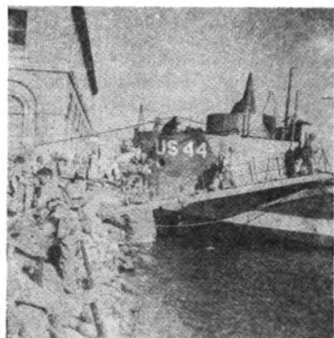
Within fifteen minutes after Private First Class Aaron had captured the German officer and men, enemy resistance collapsed on the little peninsula and a total of eighty enemy were made prisoners. During the action of that morning Second Lieutenant Joe B. Jones of Company "I", Staff Sergeant Herman F. Nevers of the Battle Patrol and Sergeant James W. Brookshear of Company "K" were outstanding.¹⁴

The First Battalion encountered only small enemy groups until a strongly held road block was met at the Gratteloup Road junction at 0800 on the 16th. A blow-out in the road prevented the attached armor from advancing on the block until the engineers could get a

dozer up to fill in the huge crater. The Red Battalion rifle companies maneuvered about as heavy small arms, machine gun and mortar fire, as well as artillery fire, were received. An all-day battle was fought with little headway being made. Staff Sergeant James H. Chandler of Company "C" alone destroyed one enemy gun emplacement by killing three machine gunners with "Tommy Gun" fire.¹⁵ By nightfall Company "C" had seized Hill 247 as Company "B" was experiencing great difficulty to move on its objective, a ridge north of the road.

¹⁴ GOs No. 13, 35, 212, 256 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 Oct. & 27 Dec. '44 & 13 Jan., 4 Feb. & 15 July '45. Capt. Blaikie, 2 Lt. Jones, S/Sgt. Nevers & Sgt. Brookshear were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. S/Sgt. Chandler was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Top photos show loading scenes at Nissida, Baia and Pozzuoli, Italy, on 8-9 August 1944. Center photos show scenes on board the vessels en route for France. Bottom photos were taken invasion morning, 15 August 1944.

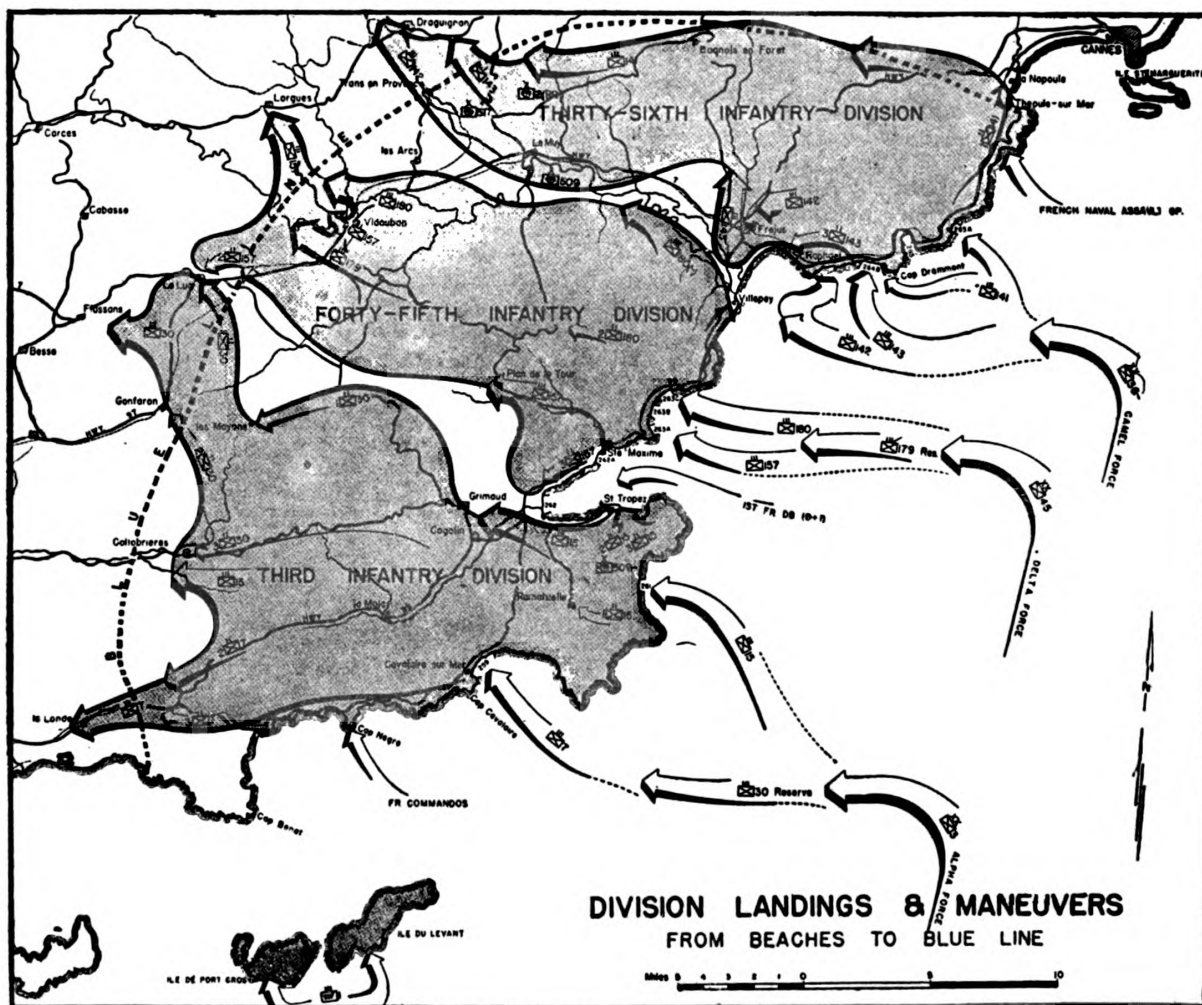
The Second Battalion, which moved west along Highway 98 behind the First Battalion, dispatched Company "F" with one tank and a tank destroyer and an artillery liaison officer, at 1415 on 16 August, in an attempt to break the enemy resistance. The force proceeded to the unimproved road which connects the Gratteloup Road Junction with Bormes and the Coast Road. Early in the morning of the 17th the Second Battalion (minus) pushed through the First Battalion and removed the block at the Gratteloup Road Junction as most of the enemy had pulled away. The battalion advanced to Le Ferriere Road Junction.

Meanwhile the Third Battalion advanced along the Coast Road through St. Clair, Le Lavandou and the many small settlements south of Bormes to contact the Second Battalion at Le Ferriere Road Junction. After Le Lavandou had been passed through Captain Anderson, commanding officer of Battery "B", 10th Field Artillery Battalion, was captured by a group of by-passed enemy. His driver was injured but escaped the enemy. Company "F" moved south from Bormes but found no trace of the enemy and Captain Anderson.

The Second Battalion continued the attack along Highway 98 against small arms, machine gun, mortar, tank, anti-tank gun and artillery fire. Company "G" absorbed heavy shelling. As Company "E" approached

the Maravanne River one of the supporting tanks of the 756th Tank Battalion was knocked out by a well concealed enemy anti-tank gun.

Staff Sergeant Stanley Bender, Company "E", climbed on top of the knocked-out tank, in the face of withering machine-gun fire in an effort to locate the source of the enemy fire. Although bullets ricocheted off the turret at his feet, Staff Sergeant Bender nevertheless remained standing up-right in full view of the enemy for over two minutes. Locating enemy machine guns on a knoll two hundred yards away he ordered two squads to cover him and led his own squad down an irrigation ditch, running a gauntlet of intense enemy machine gun fire which completely blanketed fifty yards of his advance and wounded four of his men. While the Germans hurled hand grenades at the ditch, Sergeant Bender stood his ground until his squad caught up with him, then he advanced alone in a wide, flanking approach to the rear of the knoll. He walked deliberately a distance of forty yards, without cover, in full view of the Germans and under a hail of both enemy and friendly fire, to the first machine gun and knocked it out with a single short burst. Then he made his way through the strong-point, despite bursting hand grenades, toward the second machine gun twenty-five yards distant, whose two-man crew swung the machine gun around and fired two bursts at him.



Map No. 57, "The Seventh's 'Perfect' Amphibious Invasion." Stars and Stripes Newspaper, 15 August 1945.

but Staff Sergeant Bender walked calmly through the fire and, reaching the edge of the emplacement, dispatched the crew. Signaling his men to rush the rifle pits, he then walked thirty-five yards further to kill an enemy rifleman and returned to lead his squad in the destruction of the eight remaining Germans in the strong point. His audacity so inspired the remainder of the assault company that the men charged out of their positions, shooting and yelling, to overpower the enemy road block, knock out two anti-tank guns, kill thirty-seven Germans and capture twenty-six others. Staff Sergeant Bender had sparked and led the assault company in the attack which had overwhelmed the enemy, destroyed the road block, seized three bridges over the Maravanne River, took the town of La Londe and captured the commanding terrain which dominated the area. For his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity he was later awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.¹⁶

At about 1400 hours 17 August, near Hyeres, France, Private Edward S. Horyt of Company "E" boldly led an assault platoon through a shoulder high ditch, though shells exploded almost at its rim. When two enemy machine guns opened fire from a wooded hill seventy yards away, he walked across thirty-five yards of exposed ground, disdaining available cover and disregarding the chain of enemy automatic and sniper fire which

pursued him. Advancing to within ten yards of the nearer machine gun, he was mortally wounded. Although in excruciating pain, he hurled a grenade into the hostile emplacement, knocked out the gun and killed its four-man crew. For his extraordinary heroism Private Horyt was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁷

Sergeant Jerry T. Zoppa of Company "E" was another "Cotton Baler" who won battle honors on 17 August 1944.¹⁸

The First Battalion moved by vehicle on the winding, narrow road north out of Gratteloup Road Junction to the road moving west out of Collobrieres and arrived in the vicinity of Pierrefeu at 1745 on 17 August. Company "A" moved out of Pierrefeu on the road to Hyeres and established a road block. Company "B" moved to Cuers.

The Third Battalion moved to an assembly area in the vicinity of the Second Battalion near La Londe the night of 17-18 August and at 0615 on 18 August at-

¹⁶ For authority see GO 7, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 1 Feb. 1945.

¹⁷ For authority see GO 185, Hq. 7th Army, 10 May 1945.

¹⁸ GO No. 47, HQ. 3d Inf. Div., 12 Feb. '45. Sgt. Zoppa was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Twenty-eight of the 58 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 15 August 1944 during the Invasion of Southern France were: (1) Sgt. George Arsenault, Co. "A"; (2) Pvt. John L. Bartelson, Co. "H"; (3) Pfc Charles R. Bills, Co. "G"; (4) Pvt. Chester H. Bollen, Co. "D"; (5) Pfc Selwyn S. Casper, Co. "F"; (6) Cpl. Robert O. Cook, Co. "F"; (7) Pvt. Francis X. Coughlin, Co. "A"; (8) Pfc Harry I. Davenport, Co. "G"; (9) Pvt. Wyman Eidson, Co. "G"; (10) Pfc Francis J. Fitzgerald, Co. "A"; (11) Pfc William J. Kafka, Co. "F"; (12) Pvt. Robert Kersey, Co. "F"; (13) Sgt. Clarence L. Marengo, Co. "F"; (14) Pfc Orren J. Miller, Co. "B"; (15) Pfc Sven R. Norling, Co. "H"; (16) Pfc John S. Organio, Co. "G"; (17) Pfc Frank Pacion, Co. "G"; (18) Pfc Ernest N. Ross, Co. "G"; (19) 1 Lt. Harold A. Schultz, Co. "D"; (20) S/Sgt. Robert H. Shaffer, Co. "F"; (21) S/Sgt. Simon P. Shelton, Co. "F"; (22) Pfc Robert E. Smith, Co. "G"; (23) Pfc Stanley Stawarski, Co. "A"; (24) Pvt. Adrian J. St. Hilaire, Co. "G"; (25) Sgt. Robert J. Swayne, Co. "G"; (26) Pvt. Robert E. Tauriainen, Co. "E"; (27) 2 Lt. John J. Creagh, Co. "K"; (28) Pfc Thomas J. Durando, Co. "D". For list of others killed that day see the Appendix.

tacked along the high ground north of Highway 98. At 1200 the battalion encountered heavy resistance in the vicinity of Le Caioupet receiving mortar and artillery fire. A small enemy force attempted to advance between Companies "I" and "L" but was repulsed.

A French Groupe de Commandos numbering approximately 800 was attached to the Regiment at 0930 on 18 August and relieved the Second Battalion at 1445. Sixty of the French fighters proved their ability by attacking and capturing an enemy position just north of Mauvanne which was also being attacked by Company "I" from the right. "Item" Company received very heavy enemy artillery, mortar and anti-aircraft artillery fire and progressed slowly. The French group assaulted the position, captured it, then was driven off by an enemy counter-attack. Attacking a second time the commandos recaptured the position and held on to it.

Twenty-five casualties were suffered by the French but the attack was very successful. Eight block houses with walls six feet thick and four artillery pieces of 105mm. calibre were destroyed, 60 enemy killed and wounded and 100 taken prisoners. Another company of French Commandos with two tanks and two tank destroyers was led by liaison officer, Second Lieutenant Nathan W. White, 4000 yards up the road north from La Londe then west over an unimproved road through the three little villages of Borrel Bastides to fill a gap in the line. The French company then seized the high ground west of Borrel Premiere Bastide. First Lieutenant Jack Ivester of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion accompanied the French as forward observer for the artillery.

The Second Battalion, following relief by the French Commandos, moved by vehicle under Division control via the Gratteloup Road Junction, Collobrieres, Pierrefeu, northeast to Pignans, Gonfaron and then northwest to Flassans-sur-Issole.

Two French agents passed through the enemy's lines and entered the Regiment's positions with valuable information concerning the situation in Toulon. One was badly wounded. Three flares were fired to notify fellow agents, still behind the German lines, that the two agents had managed to reach the American positions.

The First Battalion remained in position on the 18th and conducted patrolling activities. The Second Battalion remained under Division control during the morning of the 19th, then occupied defensive positions in the vicinity of Meounes and Forcalqueiret.

While French units were relieving our units heavy shelling from enemy artillery and mortars was received. The French and Company "M" sustained casualties and our "Mike" Company was a little disorganized. Second Lieutenant William S. Van Wey and Private Rene Deltieure of Company "M" and Private William F. Begenwald of the Medical Detachment, who administered first aid to both American and French casualties, were cited for actions performed.¹⁹

The French Commandos were relieved of attachment to the Regiment on the 19th. Company "A" and the Third Battalion were relieved of their positions at 1405, 19 August, by elements of the First French Division. The Third Battalion then shuttle-moved by vehicle to the vicinity of La Celle near Brignolles. Company "K" plus a platoon of Company "M" and a 57mm gun platoon of Anti-Tank Company moved to the vicinity of Bras during the night and established two road blocks. Company "I" with an anti-tank platoon moved to the vicinity of Escarelle and blocked.

Early 20 August the First Battalion shuttled from the vicinity of Pierrefeu and Cuers to the vicinity of La Celle while the attached armor of the Third Battalion

moved up from St. Honore. Company "K" moved to establish a block in the vicinity of St. Maximin-la Ste-Baume.

The entire Regiment, except the Second Battalion which remained in Division control and Company "K", moved to assembly areas between Pourrieres and Trets on 20 August as the Regimental Command Post opened in the first named place. The Second Battalion was relieved in the vicinity of Meounes and Forcalqueiret and reverted to Regimental control. The troops commenced moving out at 1945 on the 20th and closed into an assembly area in the vicinity of Lavillone, between Rougiers and St. Maximin-la-Ste-Baume, at 0500 on 21 August. Elements of the battalion relieved Company "K" on position.

The Red Battalion was attached to the 30th Infantry during the night and at 0605 on 21 August closed out of its assembly area and moved by vehicle to an area east of Aix-en-Provence. At the same time the Third Battalion commenced marching and shuttling to an area in the vicinity of Chateaufort-le Rouge and Beaurecueil.

The First Battalion attacked north and then along Highway 7 encountering only slight resistance. At 1555 the battalion returned to Regimental control and established defensive positions. The Third Battalion moved by vehicle to Aix-en-Provence, then marched northwest



Buddies in Italy both were killed in action in France. Pfc Orren J. Miller, on the right, lost his life during the Invasion of Southern France and Pfc Reno A. Martini was killed in action on 4 January 1945 in Alsace during the "Colmar Pocket" operations.

¹⁹ GOs No. 257 & 304, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 31 Dec. '44 & 15 July '45. 2 Lt. Van Wey, Pvts. Begenwald & Deltieure were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁰ See GO No. 120, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 April '45. 1 Lt. Richard L. Burkhardt, killed in a subsequent action, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for actions displayed on 21 Aug. '44.

along Highway 7 and set up blocks and defensive positions. Vigorous patrolling was maintained but no enemy contact made.

The First Battalion attacked north and then along Highway 7 encountering only scattered resistance.²⁰ At 1555 the battalion returned to Regimental control and established defensive positions.

The Third Battalion moved by vehicle to Aix-en-Provence, then marched northwest along Highway 7 and set up blocks and defensive positions. Vigorous patrolling was maintained but no contact with enemy was made.

The Second Battalion was re-attached to Division and moved by vehicle to a Division reserve assembly area southeast of Aix-en-Provence as the First and Third Battalions were on the main line of resistance between the 180th Infantry on the right and the 30th Infantry on the left.

While in the vicinity of Aix-en-Provence 21 August 1944, Colonel O'Mohundro relinquished command of the Regiment to Brigadier General Shepard and departed for home on rotation. He was later to be assigned to the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia, as chairman of the Staff Committee, Tactical Section.

The Third Division protected the attack of French forces on the ports of Marseille and Toulon by occupying defensive positions north of Marseille. Vigorous patrolling was conducted on 22 August to St. Cannat, Lambesc and Rognes.

The Third Battalion moved by vehicle the night of 22-23 August north from St. Cannat through Rognes to the Le Barcot Road Junction near the Durance River. During daylight 23 August one platoon of Company "I" moved to La Roque-d'Anthéron and another to Charleval de Provence. Patrols contacted the 15th Infantry in the vicinity of Cadenet.

At 0700 23 August the First Battalion advanced from its defensive positions. Company "C" occupied Alleins and Company "B" Ballemort. Patrols were sent out. One motorized patrol reinforced with two M-7s proceeded to the road junction at Senas-les-Martins and drew heavy machine gun, mortar, small arms and anti-tank fire. A fight ensued and the patrol lost one man killed and one other became wounded before it withdrew.

At 1115 23 August Colonel Ben Harrell, once S-3 of the Regiment while it was on garrison duty in the States, a native of Oregon and a graduate of the United States Military Academy, assumed command of the Seventh Infantry.

The Second Battalion less Company "G" reverted to Regimental control and rejoined the Regiment on the 24th. During the night of 23-24 August the First Battalion was relieved on position by elements of the Second Battalion, 30th Infantry.

The enemy continued his rapid withdrawal along the front on 24 August 1944 moving northward along the Rhone River Valley. Only enemy in Marseille and Toulon held but French forces were given the task of cleaning them out. The American forces pursued the retreating enemy who blew bridges and installations to cover the retreat.

24 August 1944 saw the Seventh Infantry battalions at widely separated points. The Seventh Infantry crossed the Durance River, relieved the 157th Infantry and advanced west seizing assigned objectives.

The Second Battalion, minus Company "G" under Division control at Aix-en-Provence, but reinforced by one platoon of Anti-Tank Company and one platoon of Company "A", 3rd Chemical Battalion, entrucked at 0600, and with Company "F" leading, advanced by bounds along the road parallel to the Durance River

on the north. At 1330 forward elements of "Fox" Company were in Merindol and at 2230 the Company occupied Cavaillon, establishing blocks to the north and northwest.

The First Battalion with a platoon each from Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Anti-Tank Company, Company "A", 3rd Chemical Battalion, and Company "I" from the Third Battalion closed into its assembly area in the vicinity of Bonnieux at 2030. The units then commenced advancing west and at 0530 on 25 August, "Baker" Company was at Menerbes with a platoon at Maubec. Company "I" was northeast of Bonnieux at Dessane.

The Third Battalion also moved by vehicle at 0600 24 August and relieved the Second Battalion of the 157th Infantry. Cannon Company, and platoons of tanks and tank destroyers were attached to the battalion. Villemus was occupied and Company "K" went to Forcalquier to the northeast. Patrols went to Sault-de-Vauchuse and reported no enemy contact.



Three officers who were killed in action in France during the period 17-22 August 1944 were: (1) 2 Lt. John Chilensky, Co. "A"; (2) 2 Lt. Richard C. Sime, Co. "L", and (3) 1 Lt. Paul V. McGhan, Co. "K".

The First Battalion continued moving north on the 25th and shuttled into Pernes at 2015. At 1600, 25 August the Second Battalion advanced north out of Cavaillon and established blocks at Entraigues, Beddarides and Courthezon St. Dominique. A continuous advance was made and at 0920, 26 August, Company "F" seized Orange. The bridge was seized over the Aigues River, a tributary of the Rhone, and one platoon of Company "F" engaged an enemy detachment in a fire fight and captured 124 enemy.²¹ Company "G", which reverted to Regimental control, joined the Second Battalion forces in Orange. Company "L" moved to the vicinity of Sault de Vauchuse 25 August while the Third Battalion minus moved to the vicinity of Apt. At 0600, 26 August the battalion less "Love" Company moved to Pernes.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol moved along the axis of the Regimental advance and one patrol went into Avignon. The First Battalion moved from Pernes to the quarry area in the vicinity of Beddarides and contacted the Second Spahi Regiment (French) in the vicinity of Avignon.

The lead platoon of Company "F" continued its aggressive action north out of Orange and at 0145, 27 August the Second Battalion entrucked and began movement north along Highway 7 to Pierrelate. Company "G" passed through "Fox" Company to take over the lead and engaged enemy in a small arms fight. Company "G" advanced slowly and fired artillery on enemy vehicles north of Donzere. At noontime 27 August the Company was ordered to hold, while elements of the 15th Infantry should pass through.

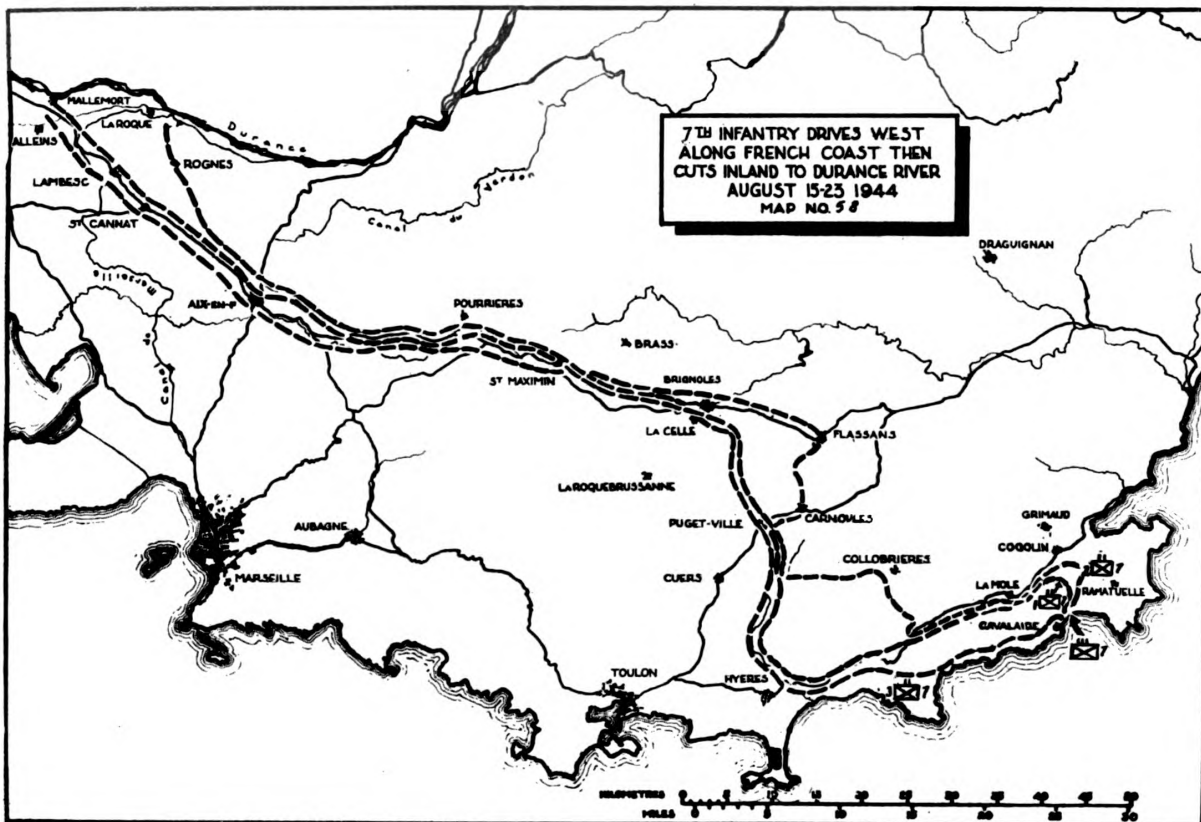
²¹ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. 1 Lt. Harold K. Toomer, Co. "F", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The First Battalion closed into the Pierrelate area at 0900, 27 August, and constituted Regimental Reserve.

The White Battalion was relieved by the First Battalion, 15th Infantry at 1925, 27 August, while being intermittently shelled by heavy artillery and tank fire.

At 2300 the reinforced Second Battalion moved by organic and attached vehicles east to the vicinity of Delaye and Grillon and went into Division reserve.

The Third Battalion closed into an area in the vicinity of La Begude-de-Mazene at 0630, 28 August, and one



Colonel Wiley H. O'Mohundro commanded the Seventh United States Infantry from 18 to 27 February 1944, and from 11 March to 22 August 1944. The above photo of him was taken at The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., where he later served as Chief of the Tactical Section.

hour and a half later attacked to the northwest. Company "K" encountered enemy machine guns and artillery fire going into La Batie Rolland. Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, had one medium tank supporting the Blue Battalion knocked out. Resistance was driven back and Company "K" took La Batie Rolland. One platoon pushed to St. Gervais-sur-Roubion and established blocks. The Blue Battalion continued on in the afternoon and night and at 0330, 29 August, reached Villard and Ruti and searched the Roubion River for crossing points.

When one of his scouts was seriously wounded by machine pistol fire, Second Lieutenant Patrick H. Adams of Company "I", who was afflicted with a severe knee injury, crawled forward and jumped into the enemy's foxhole, seized him by the throat and took him prisoner. Inspired by his example his platoon went into the attack. Under his relentless, aggressive leadership, the men of his platoon, although exhausted from incessant marching and fighting, overwhelmed three successive German strongpoints, killed six and captured approximately fifty of the enemy. For his extraordinary heroism Second Lieutenant Adams was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²² Wounded in a subsequent action he later died in a hospital.

The Red Battalion which had moved by vehicle to the vicinity of Le Bridon and Le Jas the night before, advanced west and passed through the right flank of the Third Battalion by Bonneval. The battalion made a

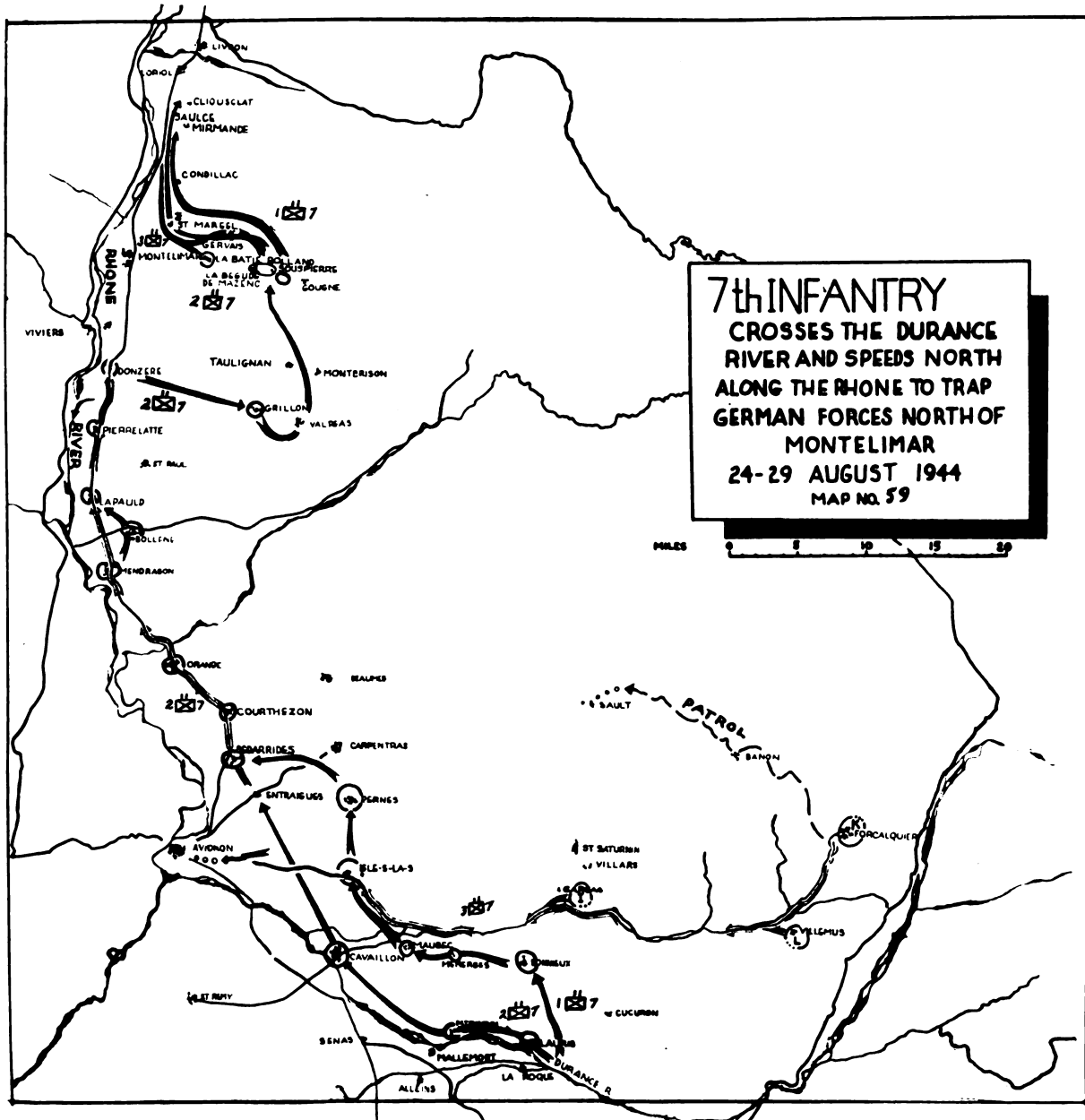
²² For authority see GO 77, Hq. 7th Army, 3 Mar. 1945.

continuous advance against enemy delaying actions and received machine gun, mortar and artillery fire. At 1610, 28 August, the Red troops had advanced to La Robertiere with "Baker" and "Charlie" Companies on line and "Able" in reserve. Company "C" advanced rapidly to Le Pavon and at 0130, 29 August, Companies "A" and "B" passed through "Charlie" Company.²³

The Second Battalion returned to Regimental control and moved from its assembly area in the vicinity of

THE SLAUGHTER NORTH OF MONTELMAR

As the Seventh Infantry battalions and the First Battalion 30th Infantry drove west toward Montelimar and the Rhone River and the 15th Infantry drove north into Montelimar to clear the city, long convoys of enemy moved north on the highway and railroad parallel to the Rhone River. In the advance north from Montelimar the Seventh Infantry was on the Division's left.



Grillon to a new area in the vicinity of La Begude de Mazene and Chateaneuf, and closed in at 2030, 28 August. The White Battalion remained there but a short while then continued on and at 0245, 29 August, closed into the vicinity of Chaton and prepared to attack at dawn. At 0700 the White troops had crossed the line of departure and were in Les Cardineaux. Company "E" entered St. Mareel-les-Sauzet at 0830.

Troops of the Second Battalion Seventh Infantry first observed the convoys and fire from all the battalion's organic weapons was placed on them. First Lieutenant

²³ GOs No. 59, 175, 304 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 31 Dec. '44 & 23 Feb., 24 May & 17 Sept. '45. 1 Lt. G. E. Guckert, Cn Co., Sgt. U. Di Pasquale, Co. "A", Pfc W. J. Small, 1 Bn. Hq Co., & Pvt. J. E. Brohel, Co. "I", were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Jack Ivester, forward observer from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, called for artillery fire, which the 10th Field Artillery gave, and he called for more, all the Third Division had, plus the 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. There was delay in getting the extra artillery as higher headquarters thought the convoy might belong to the 36th Division which had suffered a set-back some time previous and whose location was unknown. Finally the fire of all the Third Division's organic guns and attachments was brought to bear on the convoys with the observation and adjustments made by the Second Battalion. It was a slaughter that those who watched will never forget. The enemy convoys stretched for about thirteen miles through La Coucourde, Les-Tourrettes and the many other little towns to Pergnans. The convoys had stopped as the enemy thought the road to the north had been cut. The convoy on the highway consisted practically of every type of enemy vehicle and hundreds of stolen French vehicles, trucks, ambulances, and passenger cars. An estimated 1200 horses, some tied to the vehicles and others pulling carts were in the convoy which became banked two and three deep. The railway convoy a few hundred yards to the left of the road consisted of an assortment of flat cars carrying four of the enemy's 280mm guns and two 380 mm giants, boxcars with stolen foodstuffs and supplies and passenger cars.

The enemy was trapped with Seventh Infantry troops to the right and rear of them and the Rhone River on the left. Heavy concentrations were placed at the head of the column. There was no way out. Artillery of the 36th Division finally joined in the shoot and eventually friendly fighter-bombers of the air support got in on the work of destruction. It was veritable hell for the trapped enemy as bullets and shells dropped on them, smashing the vehicles and trains, killing the horses, men and women, there were a few present, and setting fire to the vehicles.

The Second Battalion was harassed by continual enemy small arms and flak wagon fire but prevented any enemy from escaping to the right.

Company "F" contacted the First Battalion, then the White Battalion troops assembled near Grange Baumer. At 0640 the Seventh Infantry advanced north without any opposition through the wreckage and destruction, to Manoude, Le Fougere and Mirmande. "Cotton Baler-men" saw their worst sights of death and destruction that day. One thousand horses and hundreds of human beings lay dead, in the wreckage, and fields off the road. Fires still burned. Clothes had been burned from the bodies of the dead which were blackened beyond recognition. The dead horses lay in the most fantastic shapes, some with



2 Lt. Otis O. Fottenbury, of Co. "M", who had risen from the ranks and received his commission on the field of battle, was killed in action on 29 August 1944.

their legs in the air, others resting on their heads, some had been split wide open by shells and their guts and entrails were scattered about the area. Eight horses lay huddled together in the main intersection of La Coucourde. Dead Germans could be seen dangling from the vehicles or in them. As the sun shone brightly and the heat of the August day increased, a terrible stench arose and many took sick and could not pass through. Traffic on the road was impossible and eventually engineers

drove bulldozers up the road to plow a path. Dead humans and horses and the debris were mixed together and scraped aside.

The ambush of the enemy in the Montelimar pocket by the speedy and aggressive Seventh Infantry and other units brought 2000 live enemy into the prisoner of war cages. Hundreds were killed, 1000 horses were killed and nearly 2000 vehicles were destroyed or captured. In the booty was included the big railway guns, 300 trailers, 12 dreaded 88mm guns, 24 guns of lesser calibre, 30 tanks and an unestimated amount of lesser materiel.



The 11th Century castle at Condillac, which was used as the 7th Infantry Command Post on 30-31 August 1944.

The "dogfaces" of the Seventh Infantry picked up many souvenirs especially from the train, as only a few of the cars had been burned. Some of the boys got rich as one car was used by the German finance department. Thousands of dollars were gained by a number of individuals in the form of French and Germany currency. Later Division Headquarters ordered all captured enemy money turned in but somehow when the order came down no one had any to turn in. Much food stuff was



Charred body of a German soldier lies amongst the debris of the enemy convoys destroyed north of Montelimar, France.

found, some with American Red Cross markings on the boxes and the boys replenished their food supplies. German weapons, uniforms and equipment were found. The Colonel, not to be outdone, got himself a case of the best liquor. In many ways the ambushing of the German convoys was one of the most profitable enterprises ever accomplished by the inimitable and incomparable "7th Light Foot".

The Regiment remained in the vicinity of Montelimar, Mermande and Condillac, where the Regimental Command Post was set up in an eleventh century castle, until 1 September, devoting the time to rest, care and cleaning of equipment and personal hygiene. Countess and count somebody or other still lived in the old castle which had

a beautiful view of the surrounding country. The Commanding Officer and his staff were accommodated in the castle and enjoyed the opportunity to clean up and sleep in huge four-post beds.

SEVENTH INFANTRY MAKES LONG MOVE 1 SEPTEMBER 1944

The German 19th Army suffered a disastrous blow at Montelimar. On the first of September 1944 the enemy continued his process of withdrawing as many of his forces as rapidly as possible out of southern France, and the Americans were in all-out pursuit of the enemy.

The Seventh Infantry made its longest move of the Southern France campaign on 1 September 1944. Movement instructions which were issued on 31 August by Colonel Harrell were put into effect. The Regiment with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, and Company "A", 3rd Chemical Battalion, attached, crossed Initial Point 1, in the vicinity of Sauzet, at 1215, and in seven serials, motor marched through Crest, Chabeuil, Bourg-de-Peage, St. Marcellin and Tullins for Voiron.

During the move orders were received from the Commanding General to continue on, and the Regiment drove on through Les Abrets and Morrestel for an area near Trepts, but before the Regiment could assemble there, it was decided to continue even further. Driving on through Lagnieu, the Regiment assembled in the vicinity of Leyment, just south of Amberieu-en-Bugey and St. Denis-Bugey, at 2400.

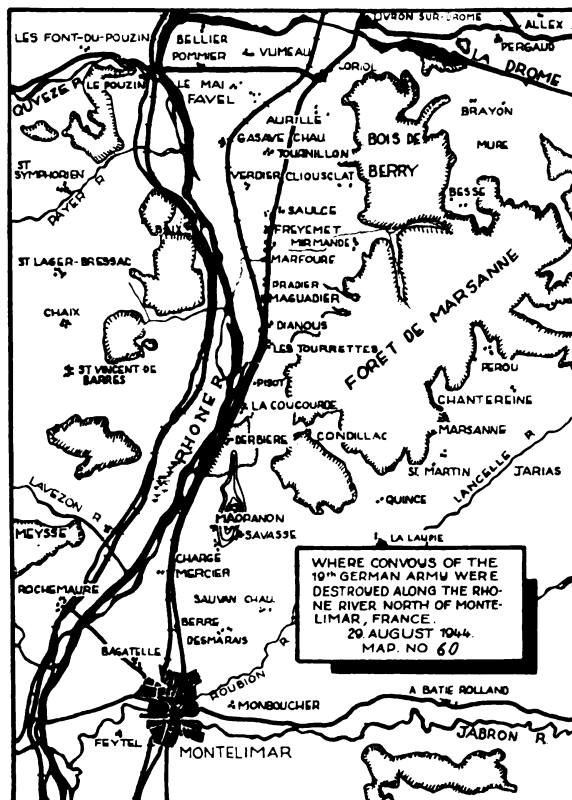
It had been a clear beautiful day and the drive through that part of France was beautiful. In many places civilians lined the streets and roads and waved greetings and threw kisses to the handsomest soldiers in Uncle Sam's army. Strict march discipline had been maintained with air guards on all vehicles, proper intervals between vehicles and regulated speed maintained. There was no dropping out of the convoy much to the regret of many. At one place a beautiful blonde, with outstretched arms, cried, "Stop, I love you." And there were wild unsuccessful efforts by all to get out of the moving vehicles.

Rain commenced to fall during the night and a miserable time was spent by most of the troops in the woods of Leyment. Only a few had been successful in finding billets. The Regimental Command Post set up in the ruined old Chateau de la Servette where a group of FFI (French Forces of the Interior) were located.

On 2 September 1944 the Regimental Battle Patrol conducted a reconnaissance north of Amberieu-en-Bugey through Neuville-sur-Ain to Bonas where the Third Reconnaissance Troop, tanks and one battalion of the 180th Infantry were located. Continuing north a bridge was found blown near Cormorand. Detour was effected and the Patrol continued northeast to Grand Corent, then northwest to the main road at Simanore-sur-Suran and up to Montfleur at which point French Maquis were contacted. The French reported the road clear for six kilometers past the town to the north and also that their forces occupied Treffort and Cuislat. Information was also gained of the enemy using the two roads running north and northeast along the railroad from Bourg-en-Bresse as escape routes. The patrol leader brought his report to the Command Post at 0100, 3 September. Another group from the Battle Patrol went to Priay. Sergeant Herman F. Nevers, the leader, reported all roads north, northeast and northwest out of that town clear for several miles. At Mas Gragez civilians reported that the enemy withdrew there at night but in daylight hours occupied positions.

ADVANCE TO LONS-LE-SAUNIER

The VI Corps continued its advance in pursuit of the enemy on 3 September on the general axis of Amberieu-en-Bugey-Belfort. The French 3rd DIM on the Corps' right reported its leading elements in St. Claude and Clairvaux close to the Swiss border at 1100. The 45th Infantry Division on the left was given the mission of capturing Bourg while the "Rock of the Marne" Division was directed to advance at once, maintain liaison with



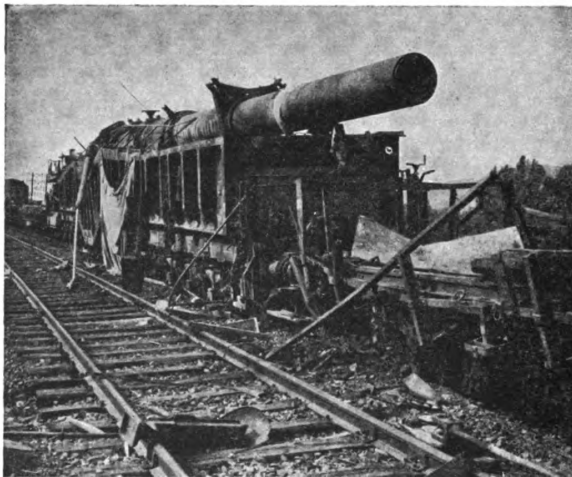
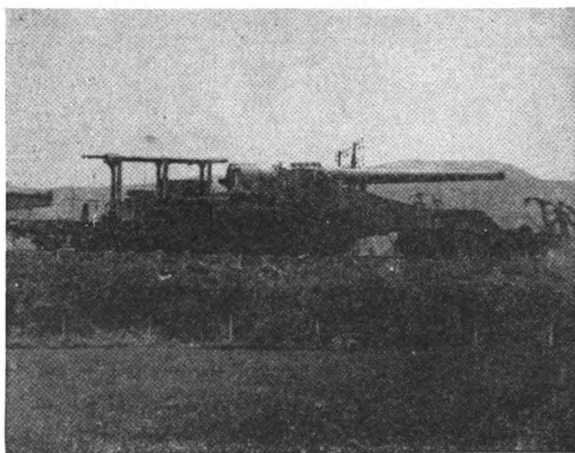
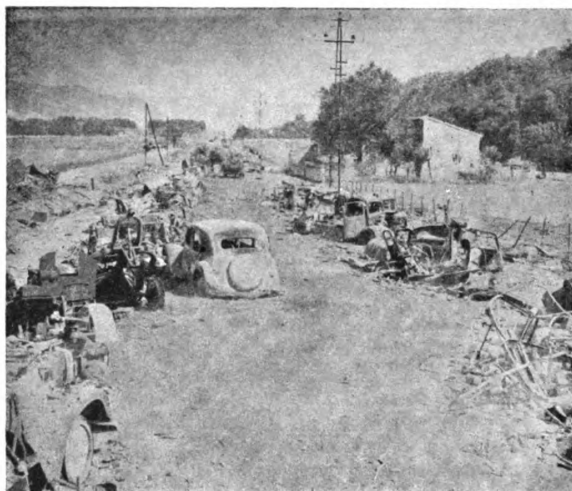
the French Combat Command and seize Lons-Le-Saunier and be prepared to continue on Corps orders.

The Third Infantry Division ordered the 7th and 15th Infantries to advance in east and west columns.²⁴

The Seventh Infantry was ordered to advance along the main road on the left. The Third Reconnaissance Troop, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were attached to the Regiment while the old stand-bys, the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, with the 9th Field Artillery Battalion attached, Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, and Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, were to be in direct support of the Regiment.

Colonel Harrell called all unit commanders to the Command Post and issued orders for the move which was initiated at 1545. With the Third Reconnaissance Troop in the lead followed by the Third Battalion, the Regiment passed through Neuville-sur-Ain, Meyriat, Villerversure, Chauvannes, St. Julien, Augisey and the many other small villages to Lons-Le-Saunier. Advancing north from Lons-Le-Saunier, the Regiment closed into defensive positions after midnight, the night of 3-4 September. The Regimental Command Post set up in Plainoiseau.

²⁴ FO 13, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 3 Sept. 1944.



Top photos show how some of the bodies of dead Germans appeared after destruction of the enemy convoys north of Montelimar. Center photos show the highway after bulldozers plowed a path through the wreckage. Two of the large enemy railway guns are shown in the lower photos.



Liaison Officer, 2 Lt. Nathan W. White and Cpl. Richard L. "Tex" Richardson, M.D., compare "handlebars" near the ruins of the Chateau de la Servette, Leyment, France, on 2 September 1944.

The Battle Patrol brought in information gathered from the French FFI that two to three companies of enemy were at Dole with no transportation and that from 5000 to 6000 Germans were in Dijon. There was an estimated enemy force of 200 at Mont-sous-Vaudrey, 800 to 1000 in Arbois, 13,000 in Besancon. Two enemy reconnaissance planes had been seen patrolling over the road between Arbois and Poligny that day and the previous day. Six different bridges were reported blown. The French leader in Poligny was contacted and reported the town clear of enemy.

The Third Reconnaissance Troops with a platoon of tank destroyers reconnoitered toward Arbois and reported enemy there. A combat patrol with a platoon of guns from Cannon Company moved to engaged the enemy but no battle resulted as the town was reported clear at 1150.

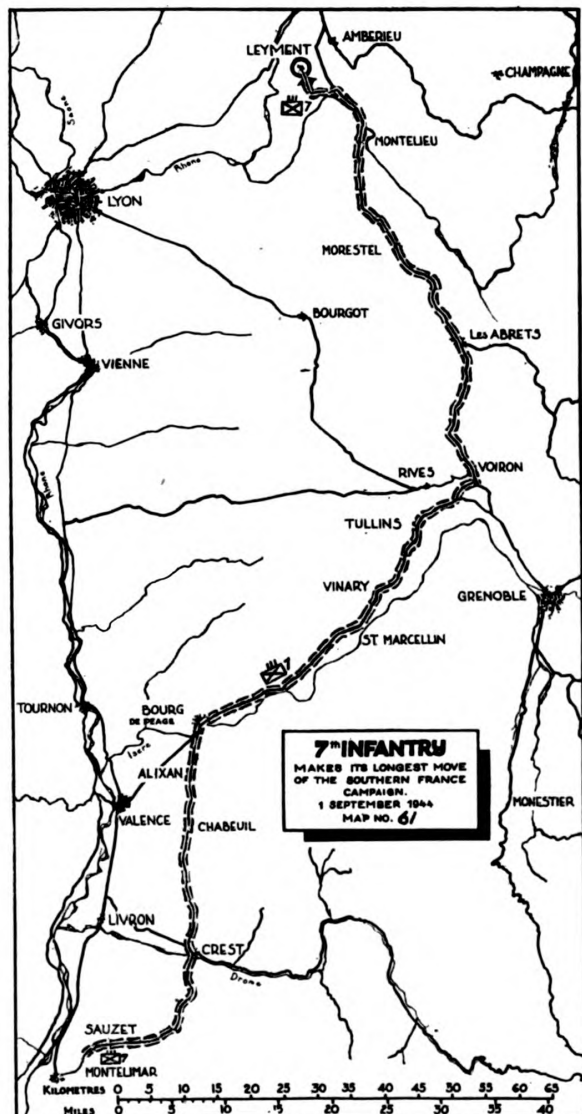
At 1310 the White Battalion moved to Arbois and one company advanced to Mouchard. The Red Battalion closed into Poligny at 1845 and one company moved on to Arbois. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol moved to Mont-sous-Vaudrey. The Third Battalion remained in position in the vicinity of Loubous and protected the Regiment's exposed left flank. At 2100, 4 September, the White Battalion plus Anti-Tank Company, 10th Field Artillery Battalion, two platoons each from Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and a platoon of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, moved by vehicle to positions between Larnod and Arguel south of Besancon.

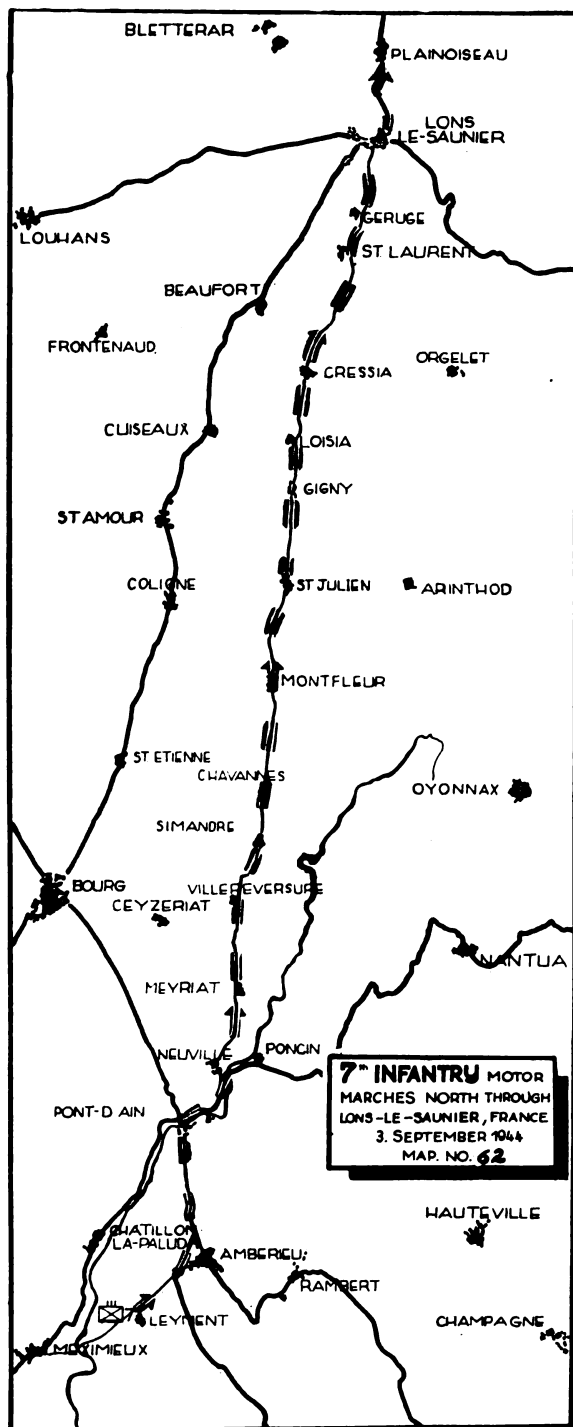
THE BATTLE OF BESANCON 5-7 SEPTEMBER 1944

Following the debacle at Montelimar the remaining German columns swung northeast for the Belfort Gap and the Rhine. At Besancon the Germans decided to make

a stand and hold until the middle of September so that their forces in the Dijon area would be able to pass through the Belfort Gap. But again their plans were to go awry. The Third Infantry Division was hard on their heels and in three days was to reduce and drive away resistance in the fortress city.

Besancon, a key communication and road net center, as well as an important industrial city of approximately 80,000 people, was located for the most part in a big loop of the Doubs River. When the Germans overran Besancon in 1940 they seized the watch factories and turned them into the manufacture of fuses and artillery shells. Besancon was a natural fortress city and had been improved through the years by French military engineers since the Middle Ages. The bottleneck opening was well fortified by the Citadelle in the center, and Fort Tousey and Fort-des-Trois Chatels to the southeast. South of the loop is Fort Chaudanne and Fort Du Petite Chaudanne (see Map No. 64). Farther south are the old French forts of Mont Rognan, Rosemont, Planois and Fontain. Northeast of the loop are located Fort Bregille and Fort Beauregard les Mandeliers, near Bregille. Just northwest of the loop is Fort Griffin and the Caserne





enemy's escape route northeast along Highway 73. The pelled guns. The high ridge running from the southwest to the northeast was occupied by German Infantry, supported by tanks and artillery in order to protect the d'Infanterie. West of the loop is the medieval prison and Caserne d'Artillerie. All of the forts, which are several hundred years old, are extremely thick walled, utilize moats and are situated on high ground commanding all avenues of approach. The Germans garrisoned them with from 50 to 200 Infantrymen each, equipped with small arms, machine guns, mortars, flak wagons and self-pro-

enemy established road blocks south of the city and a good job of bridge demolition was accomplished over the Doubs. According to an FFI report 13,000 Germans were in the city, but when the attack opened there were not that many there.

Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, Commanding General of the Seventh American Army, visited one of the Third Division observation posts and agreed Besançon would be a hard nut to crack. But the crack Third Infantry Division under the command of Major General John W. O'Daniel took it in three days' time, utilizing all three rifle regiments to assault and outflank the fortress city.

In instructions issued 5 September 1944, the Third Infantry Division ordered the 15th and 30th Infantry to attack from the south and east.²⁵

The 15th Infantry, minus its Second Battalion, but with the Second Battalion Seventh Infantry, a company of tanks and a company of tank destroyers attached, was to protect Highway 83 from the west, seize Monts des Buis, Fort Rosemont and Fort Chaudanne south of Besançon and be prepared to cross the Doubs, enter and clear Besançon in zone. The bridge at Avanne was to be protected and a strong block maintained at Le Chateau Farine.

The 30th Infantry, with the Second Battalion 15th Infantry and a company each of tank destroyers and tanks was to attack from the southeast, seize the high ground east of the Doubs, including the little villages of Morre Montfaucon and the Fort de Montfaucon, then be prepared to cross the Doubs, cut the roads north of Besançon and clear the city of enemy in its zone.

The Seventh Infantry, minus its fighting Second Battalion, upon being relieved in the vicinity of Mouchard by elements of the 36th Infantry Division was to move to an assembly area behind the 30th Infantry and be prepared for any contingency.

SECOND BATTALION ATTACKS FOR OBJECTIVES SOUTH OF BESANCON 5 SEPTEMBER 1944

The Second Battalion (Reinforced), which was initially attached to the 15th Infantry, jumped off in the attack at 0530, 5 September 1944, to clear high ground south of Besançon. The battalion became engaged in heavy small arms fights but seized the bridge at Avanne intact as three large explosions in Besançon were heard. Company "F" encountered strong resistance at Beure but seized the bridge there. Company "E" progressed against enemy small arms and machine gun resistance and cut Highway 73 at St. Ferjeux at 1205.²⁶ The supporting tanks, tank destroyers and 10th Field Artillery Battalion took under fire enemy truck convoys, and ten to twenty Mark IV and VI tanks detouring the city to the north.

On 6 September the Second Battalion left Company "E" in place and assembled the remainder of the battalion in the vicinity of Avanne as it reverted to Regimental control and as the First and Third Battalions assembled in the same vicinity.

New instructions were issued by the Commanding General on 6 September 1944.²⁷ The mission of the 30th Infantry remained the same. The 15th Infantry was to protect from the west with attached reconnaissance elements, assemble its third battalion in Division reserve.

²⁵ O. I. No. 69, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. 1944.

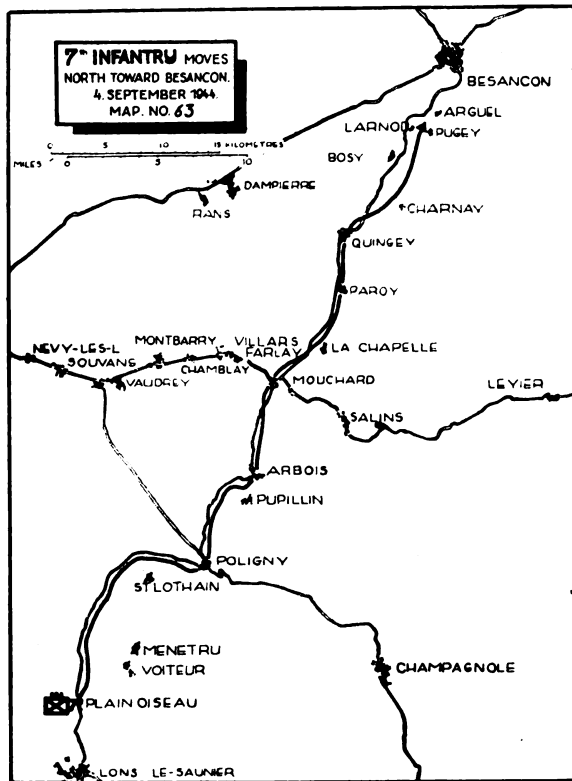
²⁶ See GO No. 256, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. Pfc K. R. Van Demark, Co. "H", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁷ O. I. No. 70, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 6 Sept. '44.

and with the remainder, seize and hold Fontain and Monts des Bois southeast of Besancon before the entrance of the bottleneck. The Seventh Infantry with all its battalions under its control was to seize without delay and hold a goose egg from Le Chateau Farine to Ecole which included Bois les Dames, La Chaillee, Le Chene du Sage and Les Montboucons.

At 1250 the White Battalion jumped off in the attack from high ground just north of Avanne. Company "G" was in the assault with "Fox" Company following. The First Battalion jumped off in the attack from the high ground north of Avanne at 1430 in a northwesterly course for the high ground above Le Chene du Sage.

At 1515 "George" Company seized Fort Rosemont and received mortar and artillery fire.



A GERMAN GENERAL IS KILLED BY A "COTTON BALER"

The Red Battalion, with "Baker" Company on the right and "Able" Company on the left, reached the road by Le Chateau Farine. The Third Battalion followed the first and relieved Company "E" which returned to the White Battalion. The Red troops engaged enemy in a small arms fight above Le Chene du Sage as Company "B" was across the road while "C" and "A" were astride the highway. The battalion asked for tank destroyers as enemy convoys were seen pulling out of Besancon to the northwest. A roadblock established by "Able" Company on the Saint Dizier Highway in the vicinity of Le Chene du Sage ambushed a four vehicle convoy escorting the German General-Major Max Schmidt who was killed by the rifle fire of a "Cotton Balerman". All four vehicles were destroyed. The general's orderly was taken prisoner and sent to the cage, with the general's papers, where he gave the information that the general was fifty-six years of age, had fought in Russia and had commanded an artillery school at Autun before the rout, and was then

on his way to take command of the newly committed 159th Division in the Besancon area. Souvenirs were gotten from the general's cars and his complete wardrobe was given to Lieutenant Colonel Izenour as a present from the "Able" Company riflemen and as a token of their esteem.

Red Battalion patrols operated between the St. Dizier Highway and Route Nationale. The Second Battalion meanwhile combatted strong enemy resistance throughout the afternoon and night of 6-7 September in attacking Fort Chaudanne. As all rifle companies were committed at 0850, 7 September, the ancient fort was surrounded.

The Third Battalion which initially followed the First, began advancing through the Red troops at 1900, 6 September, to encircle Besancon, from the northwest. Scattered enemy resistance was encountered at first but close-in fighting was engaged in during the hours of darkness.

At 2000, 6 September, new orders from the Commanding General were received which directed the Seventh Infantry to push on and take Besancon immediately. "Iron Mike" wanted the city by daylight. All resistance in the pocket of the Doubs was to be cleaned out, so that bridges could be constructed across the Doubs and thus permit VI Corps to move through the city. Colonel Harrell informed "Iron Mike" of the Seventh Infantry situation and further informed him that if the Third Battalion should encounter very much resistance along the railroad line it would by-pass it and enter Besancon from the rear, which was what happened. The battalion commanders were then informed of the commanding general's instructions and the pressure was put on the enemy throughout the night.

Fort Chaudanne, which the Second Battalion was attacking, had a low silhouette, three feet thick walls and concrete emplacements. An estimated company of enemy were entrenched behind its durable walls and continued to fire flakwagon, machine gun and small arms fire down upon the attacking troops. Reconnaissance of the fort revealed two possible escape routes. It was believed that the enemy would attempt to abandon this position during the night. Companies "E" and "F" worked their way slowly up the hill, employing hand and rifle grenade fire. Taking advantage of the darkness, soldiers climbed the walls of the fort and fired at the enemy within. At one time, the enemy came out apparently to surrender, but continued the fight after an excited soldier fired his Browning automatic rifle.

It was not until after daylight that tank destroyers were in position to fire point-blank fire at the doors, battering them apart. A wooden bridge leading into the fort was not sturdy enough to bear the weight of the armor and First Lieutenant George E. Stripp of Company "E" displayed courageous leadership that resulted in the fort's capture with nineteen enemy taken prisoners. Ignoring point-blank machine gun fire that ricocheted off a tank destroyer and barely missed him, and grenades which burst within ten yards of him, First Lieutenant Stripp arranged a plan of assault on the fort with the tank destroyer's commander. When the gate to the fort was smashed by the tank destroyer's fire, First Lieutenant Stripp inspired his platoon to follow him through a concentration of small arms fire in a rush across seventy-five yards of exposed terrain and across the wooden bridge into the fort. The aggressive charge took the fight out of the remaining enemy troops in the fort, who surrendered after firing several scattered shots and rifle grenades.²⁸

²⁸ GO No. 304, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 31 Dec. '44, 1 Lt. Stripp was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

During that night of 6-7 September 1944 near Besancon the forward observation and command post of the Third Battalion came under attack by a platoon of German Infantrymen. The enemy had infiltrated through the battalion's forward companies and attacked the command post with machine guns, machine pistols and grenade fire at ranges as close as ten yards. Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey, the battalion commander, and members of his staff who were present were in great danger of being captured or killed. In telling of the happenings that night, Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey said . . . "A rupture of communications with the assault companies, which were then meeting strong resistance, might easily have been disastrous."



Three "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 6-11 September 1944 were, left to right: T/5 John F. Alexander, 3d Bn Hqrs Co., Cpl. James H. Draper, Co. "M", and Pfc Dominick J. Trupiano, Co. "F".

Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell, a wire corporal, radio operator Private James P. Soblensky, wire chief Technician Fourth Grade Cyril F. McCall, and wireman Private First Class James P. Joyce were in the post with the battalion commander. The enemy platoon, supported by 20mm flakwagon and machine gun fire virtually surrounded the post and came within ten to fifteen yards of the building. They raked the doors and windows with a hail of bullets. "Through all this fire," said radio operator Private Sablensky, "There was one man who just sat there calmly observing out into the darkness, taking pot shots at every Kraut he saw. It was Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell, one of the wire corporals. He was the coolest customer I've ever seen. Tracer bullets were just barely clearing his head, yet he didn't seem to notice it."

Despite the hail of fire from the enemy's automatic weapons and grenade launchers Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell aggressively fought off advancing enemy elements and by his calmness, tenacity and fortitude, inspired fellow soldiers to continue the unequal struggle. Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey realized that his small force could not hold the post against the enemy superior in numbers, so ordered a withdrawal to another location. When suddenly an enemy grenade came over the wall and landed in the midst of the group, Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell unhesitatingly hurled himself on it, using his blanket and his unprotected body to absorb the full force of the explosion. Private First Class James P. Joyce said: "I lay still for a few seconds partially stunned by the concussion, then I realized that I wasn't hurt. Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell had deliberately drawn the full force of the explosion on himself in order to protect us and make it possible for us to continue at our posts and fight." Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell was severely wounded and maimed but his act of instantaneous heroism saved the lives of his comrades and facilitated the maintenance of vital military communications during the temporary withdrawal of the battalion's forward headquarters. For his actions of that night Technician Fifth Grade Maxwell was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Private First Class Wilbur D. Springer, machine gunner of Company "M" and his assistant Private First Class Paul D. Clever, Jr., knocked out an enemy machine gun and killed several supporting riflemen after a duel at one hundred fifty yards range. When a second enemy machine gun and about twenty-five riflemen thirty-five yards away suddenly opened fire on them, the two men held their ground and returned fire. Despite bullets that kicked dirt over them and hand grenades that exploded ten yards away, the two soldiers killed the remaining riflemen in the first group and forced the second enemy group to take cover in buildings. The tracer bullets they then directed at the buildings guided the fire of a friendly tank, and enabled Blue Battalion riflemen to seize them.²⁹

The lead elements of the Blue Battalion pressed their advance. At 2145 Company "K" knocked out a 20mm flakwagon and an ammunition truck with bazooka fire. Seven enemy were killed and the battalion continued to advance. At 0110, 7 September, Company "K" ran into an enemy convoy in the process of forming by a road junction on the northwestern outskirts of the city. Again a bazooka round knocked out a truck, setting it afire. Enemy activity became intense and "King" and "Love" Companies went into defensive positions. The fire fight continued until about 0400 hours. The enemy used two self-propelled guns and a flakwagon as well as small arms, grenades and machine guns. At 0400 hours 7 September, Lieutenant Colonel Ramsey ordered a withdrawal of the companies to more advantageous positions and directed a heavy shelling on the vacated positions. At 0700 the Blue troops jumped off in the attack again and skirted the city. At 1130 hours the battalion motor pool personnel engaged in a fire fight that lasted for an hour and resulted in the capture of eighteen prisoners. By 1530 the Blue troops were at A la Baraque and road junction northeast of Besancon, having skirted around the city. An hour and a half later the battalion less Company "K" progressed to the hill northeast of the city between the railroad and highway and made ready for another assault. The battalion then pressed forward against small arms and mortar fire and entered Besancon at 2015, 7 September. Fifteen minutes later the battalion was assembled near the railroad station in the city just northeast of the loop.

The Red Battalion which was relieved of positions at 0600, 7 September by the Second Battalion, 15th Infantry, advanced to the east from the vicinity of Ecole at 1230, in a column of companies with "A" leading. An enemy column was engaged in a brief fire fight, many killed, many driven off and fifteen captured. La Chanle was seized and as "Able" halted temporarily to reorganize, with a platoon on either side of a dirt road, a column of sixty enemy unwittingly marched between the two units and was wiped out. At 1600 the forward elements of the Red Battalion were at the A la Baraque road junction.

Following the capture of Fort Chaudanne by the Second Battalion the Seventh Infantry greatly assisted the attack of the First Battalion, 30th Infantry, through the bottleneck for the Citadelle. Cannon Company did a particularly fine job of rendering support.³⁰

At 1730, 7 September as the attack on the Citadelle was still in progress orders were received from Division Headquarters directing that the Seventh Infantry clear the city including the part in the loop. VI Corps sent a 110-foot Bailey bridge to the Regimental Command Post.

²⁹ GO No. 304, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 31 Dec. '44. Pfc Springer & Clever were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁰ See GO No. 265, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Nov. '44. Capt. R. V. Horton was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Second Battalion moved northwest from Fort Chaudanne and cleared the part of the city west of the loop and was at the railroad station. The Commanding General called Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro at 1900 and personally issued instructions for clearing the island as far as the Citadelle and assaulting it from the rear. One rifle company then started immediately over a partially destroyed bridge as the engineers started putting in the Bailey Bridge.

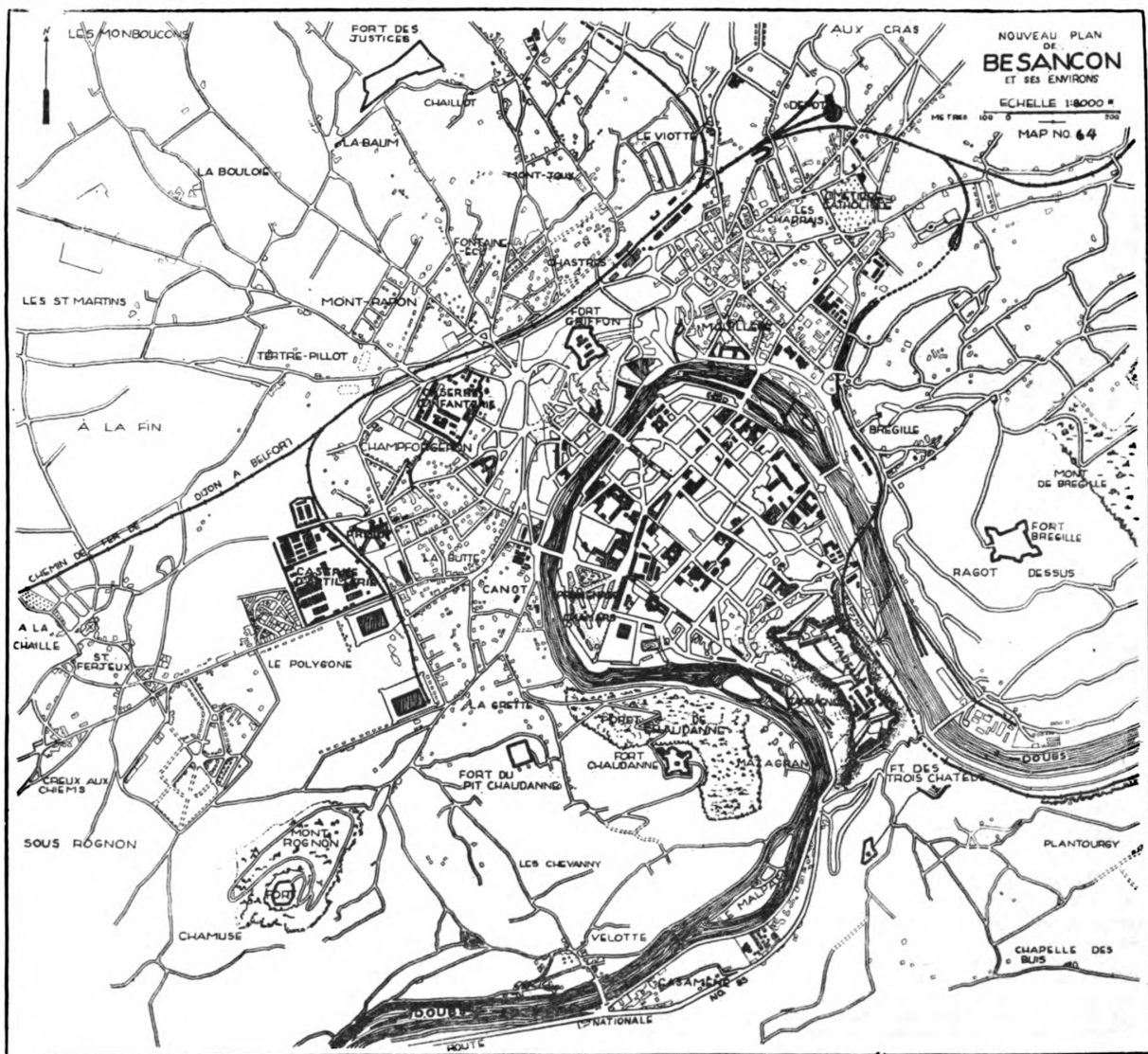
At 1920, 7 September, Cannon Company reported a white flag from the Citadelle which was actually taken by the First Battalion, 30th Infantry, assisted by the Seventh Infantry. All resistance had ended except for sniper fire. All of the city of Besancon excepting the Citadelle and the two forts guarding the entrance to the bottleneck had been cleared by the "Cotton Balers".

The Third Battalion withdrew from Besancon early 8 September and at 0930 near Montarmot attacked an enemy convoy. The 57mm Anti-Tank Squad of Third Battalion Headquarters led by Staff Sergeant Willard F. Wagner played an important part in smashing the convoy. The fire of the squad blasted nine trucks and caused

fifteen more to be abandoned, destroyed a 76mm anti-tank gun, inflicted fifteen casualties and was responsible for the capture of fifty enemy soldiers. Staff Sergeant Robert A. White and Private First Class Albert F. Hoffner captured between 80 and 100 members of the wrecked convoy and were indirectly responsible for the release of a similar number of friendly troops. Included in the bag of prisoners was the commanding officer of a German regiment and his staff of six officers. Sergeant Frank L. Freeland captured nineteen enemy soldiers.⁸¹

The captured German colonel and a major were brought before Colonel Harrell at the Regimental Command Post. The German colonel gave the appearance of a professional soldier and accepted his humiliating position without any outward display of emotions and gave due respect to the Seventh Infantry commanding officer. He used a cane as the artificial legs he procured, following amputation of his natural legs after injuries sustained in

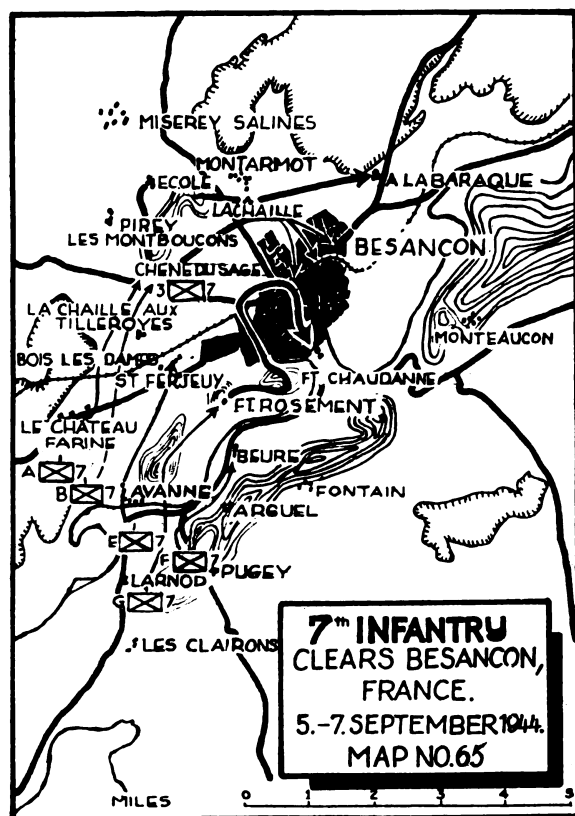
⁸¹ GOs No. 11, 202 & 206, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 Sept. & 2 Oct. '44 & 11 Jan. '45. S/Sgts. Wagner & White, Sgt. Freeland & Pfc Hoffner were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Map No. 64, "Nouveau Plan de Besancon et Ses Environs."

minefields during the short German campaign which brought the downfall of France, were not too satisfactory. His subordinate officer, the major, was sullen and gave the appearance of the typical Nazi officer. Some "Cotton Baler" had taken his nice binoculars and he was put out no end.

Other "Cotton Balers", besides those already mentioned, who displayed gallantry in action during the Battle of Besancon were Private William E. Krovchuck of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, who was killed in action, Technical Sergeant Alexander Bucsa of Company "F", Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell of Third Battalion Headquarters Company, Private First Class William F. Simokauskas of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Private First Class Ernest H. Burns of Company "G" and First Lieutenant Warren M. Solomon of First Battalion Headquarters Company.³²



As at Montelimar, the Seventh Infantry received little recognition from higher headquarters for its performance in the Battle of Besancon.³³ However, a year later the French Army commander at Besancon, on the occasion of the anniversary of the city's liberation, in a letter to Brigadier General W. T. Sexton, then commanding general of the American Third Infantry Division, cited the Seventh Infantry while expressing appreciation for the part a detachment from the division played in the anniversary celebration exercises. His letter is here quoted:³⁴

I wish to convey to you the deep gratitude of the French Army and of the City of Besancon for the honor you have done them in permitting a detachment of your division to take part in the celebration of the anniversary of the Capital of Franche-Comte. The French Army and the City of Besancon are joined also by the leaders of the Franche-Comte Resistance Movement, who had the signal honor of returning to their city a year ago at the side of your troops, notably the Seventh Infantry Regi-

ment. Permit me, General, to add my personal thanks in my capacity as Chief of the Headquarters of the Franche-Comte FFI.

The pages of history written in September 1944 by your division will long remain in the memory of all residents of this place of battle, who will faithfully continue to demonstrate each year at this time the same feeling of gratitude for the American Army and our own Franche-Comte Maquisards.

Permit me finally to ask you to convey to your troops our complete admiration of the magnificent appearance and military conduct of your detachment which made a profound impression on the population of the City of Besancon.

I wish to extend to you, General, an expression of my sincere and devoted sentiments.

Signed:

BRIG. GEN. FOURNIER

French Army

At 1145, 8 September, the Red Battalion resumed the advance to the northeast from A la Baraque, encountered some small arms resistance but at 1815 was in Rigney and in possession of the bridge over L'Ognon Riviere. The Red Battalion sent patrols to Moncey, Venise and Rioz. The one to the last named place encountered enemy tanks. The battalion advanced to Vandelans.

After the Blue Battalion cleaned up the enemy convoy in the vicinity of Montarmot it advanced, parallel to the Red Battalion's course, through the Foret De Chailluz to Vieilley, Venise and Moncey where the bridge was secured. Cirey was seized at 2240. Company "K" moved to Bonnay southwest of Vieilley. A liaison officer led four M-8 tanks across country to Bonnay. At daylight 9 September "King" Company supported by the tanks and the 69th Field Artillery Battalion attacked for the bridge over L'Ognon River south of Voray. Enemy resistance was encountered along the north-south highway and just before the "King" Company riflemen reached the bridge, it was blown by enemy demolition squads.

The Second Battalion moved to the vicinity of Cirey the night of 8-9 September and attacked northwest toward Rioz. At 0835 the White Battalion was at Bellevaux Chateau where it directed artillery fire on an enemy convoy north of Rioz. The troops pushed on to Neuves Granges and engaged in a fire fight. At 0935 a small enemy attack at Traitiefontaine was defeated and fourteen enemy taken prisoners. Company "G" drove on to Hill 308 as Company "E" was on Hill 337 and "Fox" Company occupied Hill 283.

On 9 September the Red Battalion sent out patrols from the vicinity of Vandelans and contacted groups of enemy on both sides. One enemy patrol infiltrated "Baker" Company's positions near Rignosat but fared badly against the "Cotton Balermen" who killed eleven of their members. The Red Battalion set up road blocks to the northeast. A patrol north from Vandelans contacted enemy in the woods. An M-8 from Cannon Company was hit by enemy panzerfaust fire.

³² GOs No. 40, 59, 120, 264 & 282, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 & 23 Feb., 6 Apr., 19 July & 1 Aug. '45. Pvt. Krovchuck (posthumously), T/Sgt. Bucsa, T/5 Maxwell, Pfc Simokauskas & Burns & 1 Lt. Solomon were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³³ On recommendation of Div. Hq. a battalion of the 15th Infantry received the Presidential Unit Citation for the capture of Montelimar while a battalion of the 30th Infantry received a similar citation for the taking of Besancon. Failure of the Div. Awards Section to recognize the excellent work of the 7th Infantry in the destruction of the German convoys north of Montelimar and its great part in the capture of Besancon displeased the CO and other personnel of the 7th Infantry. However tardiness of the 7th Infantry's own awards section in making recommendations probably was one reason for lack of official recognition.

³⁴ As printed in "The Front Line", Vol. 1, No. 52, Korbach, Germany, 29 Sept. 1945.

At 1805, 9 September, Company "G" continued the advance from Hill 308 and encountered slight resistance just north of Rioz, capturing six prisoners. Patrols entered Rioz and found it clear. Two companies of the 15th Infantry occupied the town during the night. Following relief of Company "G" by the 15th Infantry it rejoined the rest of the Second Battalion.

On 9 September, First Lieutenant James C. Jernigan and men from Anti-Tank Company established a road block and ambushed an enemy force. Eight vehicles were destroyed, 30 Germans killed and 118 others taken as prisoners of war.³⁵



Capt. Lucius S. Davis, commanding Co. "M", was killed in action on 9 September 1944.

Company "K", reinforced, was attached to the 15th Infantry and advanced north from Vorays. At 2100, 9 September it reverted to Regimental control. The remainder of the Third Battalion remained in Regimental reserve 9 September, guarded the bridge at Cirey and conducted patrols to Beaumotte, Cenans and Loulans.

7th INFANTRY ATTACKS NORTH 10 SEPTEMBER 1944

At 0600, 10 September Red Battalion forces relieved the Blue Battalion guard at the Cirey bridge and the Third Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Loulans.

The Regiment attacked north 10 September 1944. As the Red Battalion held in place for awhile the Second and Third Battalions pushed on.

At 1000 the White Battalion attacked north from Neuves Granges toward Authoison and Filain. Advancing through Les Grand Bois de Bellevaux strong enemy resistance was encountered south of Aubertans. The battalion received heavy artillery fire and the observation post was hit. Captain Thomas P. Board, battalion surgeon, Lieutenants Hart and O'Connor were wounded by the enemy fire. "Easy" Company moved to the left flank of the town. Heavy small arms and 88mm fire slowed the advance of the battalion.³⁶

The Blue Battalion attacked north from Loulans and defeated strong resistance in the vicinity of Ormenans. Driving on against stiff opposition Fontenois-les-Montbozon was captured. The two platoons of Company "I", with tanks, on the battalion's left flank in Roche-sur-Linotte received heavy shelling. At 2020 the main Blue Battalion forces seized the road junction south of Dampierre-sur-Linotte and sent a platoon on the road southwest to contact Company "I", but "Item" Company, overcoming the enemy strongpoint in Roche-sur-Linotte left one platoon at Sorans and joined the Blue Battalion at 2235.

7th INFANTRY PRESSES THE ATTACK 11 SEPTEMBER 1944

The First Battalion minus Company "C", left to guard bridges at Cirey and Rigney, moved by vehicle

from Rigney to Loulans the night of 10 September 1944. Company "C" was relieved of its guard duties by a company of the 30th Infantry at 0530 on 11 September 1944, and moved to join its battalion near Loulans.

The Red Battalion minus Company "C" attacked from the road junction near Loulans at 0600 and headed for Filain as Company "G" of the White Battalion was advancing on Authoison.

Company "G" encountered heavy resistance from four enemy machine guns and a platoon of enemy riflemen in the woods south of Authoison. "Fox" Company took Villers Pater while "Easy" Company seized Aubertans. The roads to Villers Pater were mined.

The Red Battalion encountered small arms resistance and engaged in fights but overcame resistance and drove on to the outskirts of Filain at 1315.

The Third Battalion moved at 0730 and seized Dampierre-sur-Linotte at 0920 as all the Seventh Infantry battalions pressed the advance. Leading elements encountered resistance north of the town in the form of flak wagon, rifle, artillery and machine gun fire. Self-propelled gun fire was received from as close as 800 yards. Companies "K" and "L" were engaged throughout the day.³⁷

Meanwhile the Second Battalion seized Authoison and swung northeast to seize Vy-les-Filains, after which it followed the First Battalion which had cleaned out Filain and drove to Hill 405 and Baa-du-Vaux.

The First Battalion swung northeast to seize the hill south of Bois-de-Belle Cote near Les Belles Baraques and the Second Battalion occupied Hill 418.³⁸ The battalions sat tight during the night of 11-12 September 1944.

Early on the 12th the Third or Blue Battalion continued its advance and occupied its objective, Hill 397, as the Red and White Battalions sent patrols to Les Belles Baraques and the road to Vesoul. The Blue Battalion drove straight on for Noroy-le-Bourg where a fight was had. When the advance of Company "L" was halted, Staff Sergeant John H. Stanton singlehandedly charged a strongly emplaced machine gun, moving in long rushes across 125 yards of flat, exposed terrain through enemy fire. He hit the ground about 25 yards from his objective and, with deadly rifle fire, destroyed the entire enemy gun crew. He then dashed to a barn 25 yards to his left front where a flak wagon was in position. He shot and killed one of the crew and put the rest to flight. Continuing his solitary attack he advanced down a street of Noroy-le-Bourg under sniper fire, to a barn held by a numerous enemy group. Hurling a hand grenade through a door he forced ten Germans to surrender and wounded several others. Again continuing his one-man assault he almost collided with a German as he rounded a street corner. Wrenching the rifle from the startled German's grasp he killed him as he attempted to flee. Then firing his M-1 rifle into a cellar where the enemy was lodged in considerable force, he compelled fifteen more Germans to yield. Having killed and captured at least 25 of the enemy and eliminated two gun positions Staff Sergeant Stanton waited until his company caught up with him. For

³⁵ GO No. 264, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 19 July '45. 1 Lt. Jernigan was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁶ See GOs No. 316 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 25 Sept. '45. Capt. Board & Pfc R. D. Graham, A.T.Co., were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁷ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. 2 Lt. G. M. Connor, Co. "K", & Pvt. R. Deltieure, Co. "M", were awarded the Second & First Oak Leaf Clusters respectively to the Silver Star Medal.

³⁸ See GO No. 120, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 6 Apr. '45. Pvt. J. Blackburn, Co. "C", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

his extraordinary heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³⁹ Company "L" accounted for 100 of the 150 prisoners captured by the Third Battalion in Noroy-le-Bourg.⁴⁰



French women accused of collaboration with the Germans had their hair clipped. Above photos show scenes that occurred in Orange and Besancon.

7th INFANTRY SWINGS TO THE NORTHEAST FOR LURE

As friendly troops on the left seized Vesoul the Seventh Infantry swung northeast on 13 September 1944 toward Lure.

At 0915 the First Battalion left Company "B" on Hill 452 and attacked Hill 430 with Companies "A" and "C". "Charlie" Company received some artillery fire while advancing on the objective. Company "A" moved to the south flank of the hill.⁴¹



The remains of Lt. Col. Thobro's jeep after it was blown up by a mine.

The Blue Battalion seized Hill 410 northeast of Noroy-le-Bourg and prepared to continue the attack. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol conducted successful missions. One reconnaissance patrol to Villers-le-Sec captured nine prisoners and killed several more enemy. Above Grande Vaivre two enemy vehicles were destroyed by the patrol and all occupants killed but one. At 2100, 13 September, another patrol passed through Company "K" and conducted raiding parties to maintain enemy contact. Strong enemy automatic weapons and small arms fire prevented the patrol from entering the town of Autrey-les-Cerre. A jeep was destroyed by a mine, killing two and wounding one.

The Second Battalion which was in Division reserve for a time reverted to Regimental control and assembled south of Cerre-les-Noroy at 1900, 13 September 1944.

At 0400, 14 September 1944, the White Battalion moved to its assigned line of departure, the railroad line south of Hill 430, and at daylight, 0630, jumped off in the attack to the northeast. Company "G", under the veteran company commander, Captain Edgar H. Poinsett, entered Borey at 0915 and drove on. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro's jeep ran over a mine, his orderly was killed and the driver seriously wounded.

The Blue Battalion attacked from Hill 410 at 0715 and the Red Battalion joined in the attack at 0835. The Red forces seized Autrey-les-Cerre and at 1120 both the Red and Blue Battalions had troops in Montjustin. Company "K" with anti-tank protection was sent to Llevans as the Commanding General wanted some troops there as a protective measure.

The Second Battalion passed through Arpenans at 1250 and continued the advance for Gouhenans, directly east. At 1600 the north-south road was reached and Company "F" encountered enemy infantry, mortars and artillery fire south of Hill 332. Twenty enemy were killed and twenty more taken prisoners as a result of the fighting. During the hours of darkness "Easy" Company preceded by strong patrols, advanced to the vicinity of the stretched-out village of Les Aynans. At daylight a strong fire fight ensued as the battalion sought to seize the bridges over L'Oignon River.

Private First Class Michael J. Smerillo of a machine gun section from Company "H", ran forward fifty yards through a hail of enemy bullets, carrying his heavy machine gun tripod. Selecting an open firing position, he waited until his assistant gunner arrived with the machine gun barrel, then set up the weapon and engaged one of three enemy machine guns. In a twenty minute fight, while streams of automatic fire were directed at him and rifle grenades exploded fifteen yards from him, he knocked out the weapon and killed its three man crew. He then dragged his ninety-five pound weapon forward to a new and more exposed position and engaged the other two enemy machine guns. Bullets came so close to him that they perforated the field jacket he carried on his belt. Despite the enemy fire he traversed his machine gun and fired upon one enemy weapon then the other and wounded four members of the two hostile crews, forced a fifth to surrender and compelled the others to with-

³⁹ For authority see GO 85, Hq. 7th Army, 9 Mar. 1945.

⁴⁰ See GOs No. 13, 163, 177 & 228, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan., 16 & 23 May & 26 June '45. 1 Lt. J. J. Greene, Co. "L", (posthumously), & S/Sgt. D. R. Thierolf, Co. "C", were each awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Pfc R. E. Pinard, 3 Bn Hq Co., (posthumously), & 1 Lt. D. J. Lostumbo, Co. "L", were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

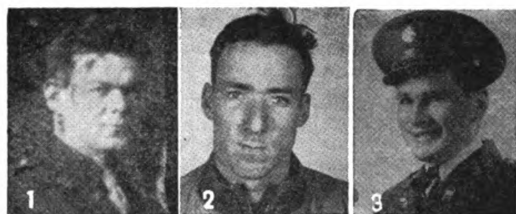
⁴¹ See GO No. 66, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Feb. '45. Capt. Tyler Campbell, Co. "A", (posthumously) was awarded the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. G. E. Guckert, Cn Co., was awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

draw. His actions were mainly responsible for the capture of the objective. For his extraordinary heroism Private First Class Smerillo was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁴²

Company "I" entered Arpenans at 1615 for the Blue Battalion and two hours later the entire battalion assembled in the town in Regimental reserve.

The Red Battalion continued its advance the morning of 15 September 1944 and at 1150 the forward elements of "Baker" Company entered La Granges du Veau without opposition. The battalion left Company "B" in La Granges-du-Veau and launched an attack for high ground 2000 yards to the northeast. Resistance was strong and the enemy had to be routed from their foxholes by bayonets and grenades. The high ground was taken and the troops remained there the rest of the night.

On 15 September a ten-man motor patrol from the Battle Patrol observed two enemy vehicles rounding a bend in a road less than seventy-five yards ahead. All except Private First Class Bruce A. Aven, a jeep driver, took cover in a nearby ditch. Slipping quickly behind



Three "Cotton Baler" officers killed in action on 14-15 September 1944 were: (1) 2 Lt. Joseph S. Ancanage, Cn Co.; (2) 2 Lt. Frank Streble, Co. "A", and (3) 2 Lt. Arthur J. Blackwood, Co. "H".

the .50 calibre machine gun mounted in the rear of his jeep, Private First Class Aven delivered such accurate and intense fire that he destroyed both enemy vehicles and killed all six occupants before they could fire a shot in return. So frightened was the crew of an enemy flak wagon two hundred yards away by the ferocity of Private Aven's attack, that the Germans fled in disorder.⁴³

The Third Battalion came out of reserve at Arpenans on 15 September 1944, assembled in the woods to the northeast and made preparations to go into the attack, by sending reconnaissance patrols out toward Vy-les-Lures.

At about 1330 the Blue Battalion launched its attack with Companies "I" and "L", and attached machine gun platoons from Company "M". "L" was on the left. "King" Company followed in reserve.

Advancing across open, rolling ground the assaulting companies, as they neared Vy-les-Lures, encountered determined enemy resistance supported by a large amount of machine gun, artillery and mortar fire. Enemy artillery shells exploded between the two assault companies, caused several casualties, destroyed communication between them, and prevented a coordinated attack.

Besides the artillery fire, six machine guns inflicted heavy casualties on Company "I", which included the Company Commander, First Lieutenant Arthur M. Dunn, and some of his communications personnel, as well as all but five members of an assault platoon. First Lieutenant Hugo J. Mondelli assumed command of the company.⁴⁴

COMPANY "L" WINS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT VY-LES-LURE

When the heavy enemy artillery barrages exploded between the Blue Battalion's two assault companies on 15 September 1944 near Vy-les-Lures, Captain Ralph J. Yates quickly commanded "Love" Company to strike off due left of the battalion's axis of advance. After proceeding several hundred yards in the new direction masked from the enemy fire by a ground rise, the company turned right and continued parallel to its original course. By changing the route Captain Yates saved his company casualties from enemy artillery and also outflanked the enemy's outpost line of resistance before Vy-les-Lures.

While Company "I" fought off the powerful enemy counter-attack Company "L" continued its advance with both flanks exposed. As the riflemen crossed a pasture toward a secondary road leading into the town, the enemy laid heavy artillery and mortar fire on them. The squad leaders quickly cut gaps in a barbed wire pasture fence and the company swept forward through the enemy fire, and, reaching the secondary road plunged into a drainage ditch to its side. They then faced right and moved along the ditch toward the outskirts of Vy-les-Lures.

To the immediate front approximately seventy-five yards and on the right of the secondary road, was the first of several houses. On the opposite side of the road, at a slightly shorter range, was a cemetery surrounded by a five-foot stone wall. Beyond the cemetery and the first houses, the secondary road effected a junction with the main north-south highway at an oblique angle. Just south of the junction of the two roads was situated a large house.

"Love" Company became temporarily halted by very heavy artillery, mortar, machine gun, machine pistol, and rifle fire. Captain Yates seized the Browning automatic rifle of a wounded man and sprayed enemy in the first house with intense fire from a standing position.

Lieutenant Samuel J. Selvog led elements of the First Platoon in a rush, along a hedgerow on the south side of the road, toward the first house. A rifleman in the drainage ditch raised himself to fire at the enemy and received a burst of bullets from a machine gun firing through a hole in the cemetery wall. The terrific power of this point blank fire almost tore the rifleman's arm from his shoulder.

Captain Yates, followed by members of his command post group and several others, crossed the road and jumped into the ditch next to the cemetery wall. Company "L" then became engaged in a very heavy fire fight as creeping enemy mortar and artillery fire reached and encompassed the embattled company. Exposed and facing an enemy of unknown strength, Captain Yates and a number of other men crept under the muzzles of the enemy guns in the cemetery and paused beneath the stone wall facing the road.

Sergeant George A. Grando, who was behind his commanding officer, crawled forward several yards almost to the corner of the wall, and lobbed a fragmentation grenade over it. Cries of pain and the abrupt cessation of automatic fire from that source indicated that the ser-

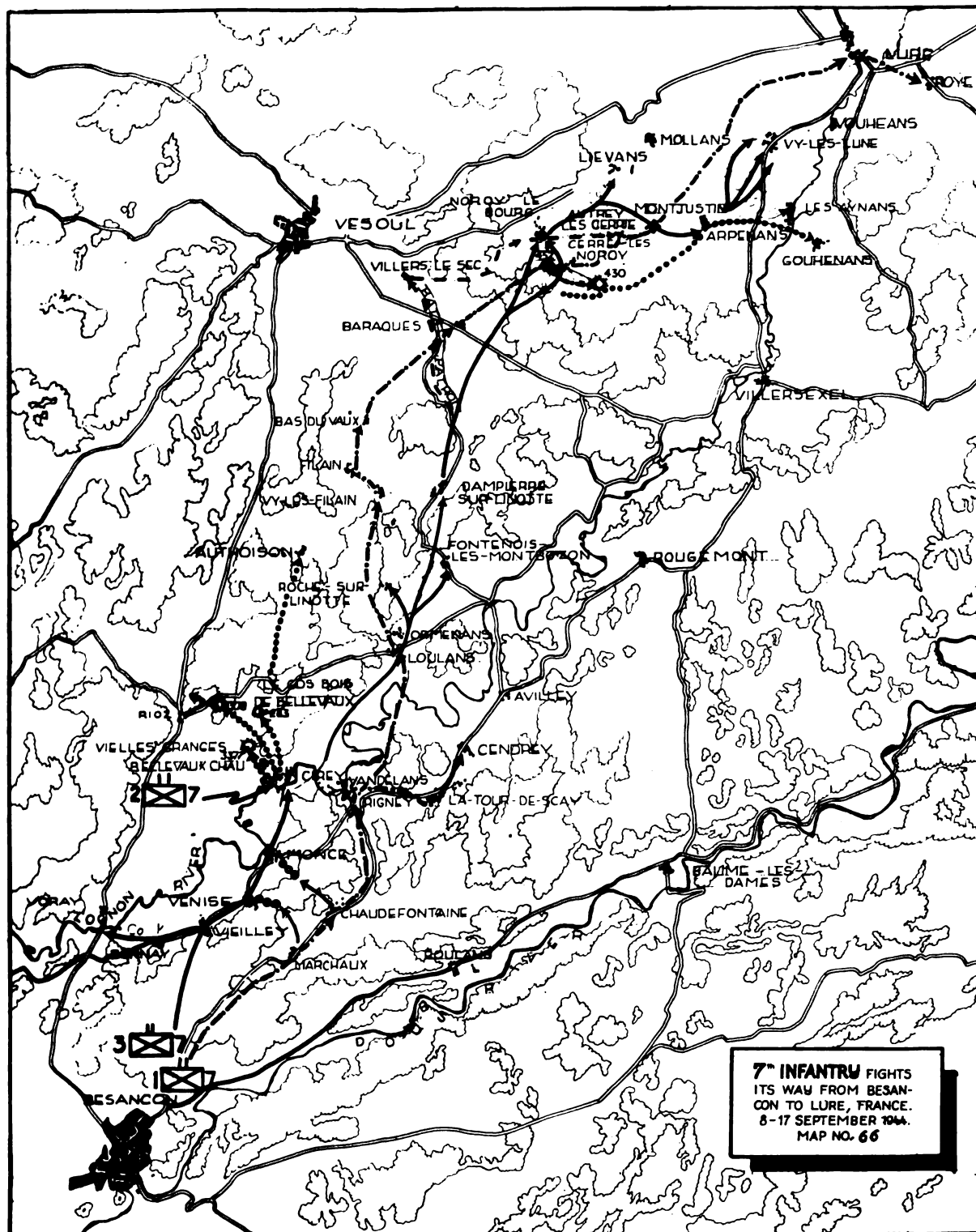
⁴² For authority see GO 55, Hq. 7th Army, 17 Feb. 1945.

⁴³ GO No. 13, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan. '45. Pfc Aven was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁴ GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. 1 Lt. Mondelli was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

geant had hit the mark. But the respite was only temporary. Several moments later the enemy retaliated from the cemetery with "potato masher" grenades. One grenade landed beside Sergeant George A. Grando. Sergeant Dean W. Barnette, the communications sergeant, picked it up and tossed it back.

Raising himself to his full height of over six feet, Captain Yates lifted his Browning automatic rifle over his head and fired into the cemetery, at the same time shouting to his men to charge the first house. In quick rushes a group crossed the road and entered the gate of the first house.



Private First Class Herbert H. Hirzel, Jr., the company radio operator received a burst of machine gun fire in the groin, hips and stomach, from dugouts on the far side of the road.

Sergeant Dean W. Barnette crawled to the side of Private First Class Hirzel and unstrapped the radio which was riddled and useless. As he started to drag the operator to the front door he, himself, received a burst of machine pistol bullets in the legs. Although wounded in six places, Sergeant Barnette continued to drag the stricken radio operator to the doorway when another burst of enemy fire sprayed his face, shoulder and arm. Still conscious, but completely dazed, the communications sergeant left the doorway and crawled to a haystack in the yard. As another soldier pulled Private First Class Hirzel inside the house, Sergeant Barnette, bleeding from nine wounds, recovered from his initial shock, ran towards the house and dived through a window.

Several minutes later Second Lieutenant Selvog, followed by about a dozen of his men dashed through a hail of fire and into the house. A search of the house uncovered three Germans who were attempting to hide. One was killed and the other two captured. Rallying about eight men, Second Lieutenant Selvog led them in an assault on a house about seventy-five yards to the right rear, located on the north-south highway and which was found to be empty.

After laying down covering Browning automatic rifle fire for his men, Captain Yates crossed the road and safely entered the first house where he established his command post.

The Germans north of the secondary road did not fire at every man who attempted to reach the cover of the Command Post. Some soldiers were permitted to enter the house without drawing fire. But most members of the company were subjected to terrific volleys. Six or seven were wounded near or in the doorway, on which the enemy had his guns sighted.

The rear elements of the company, particularly the Weapons Platoon and the machine gun platoon from Company "M" suffered severely from the enemy's mortar and artillery fire, and not any of them succeeded in reaching the cover of the house. A mortar gunner and a mortar ammunition bearer were each twice wounded by shell fragments before they managed to reach the Command Post with nothing but their personal arms. One heavy machine gunner and his assistant brought their weapon intact to the Command Post, but the ammunition bearers were unable to get through. Thus, except for a few Browning automatic rifles, no automatic weapons or mortars were available.

Private Ned Finch, a rifleman, voluntarily led four men forward under intense automatic fire in an attempt to seize the house on the southwest corner of the road junction and thus strengthen the company's hold on the town. Encountering a high wire fence, Private Finch placed his men in concealment and began cutting through the wire despite the aimed fire of one enemy machine gun and two machine pistols at 150 to 200 yards range. Although bullets tore his pack, he completed his task and led his men forward to a house 200 yards ahead of the main elements of his company. His party then inflicted seventeen casualties on the enemy, knocked out one machine gun, silenced a second and materially helped his company hold the town against the superior enemy force.

At the same time, Staff Sergeant Manuel N. Esparza organized a group of half a dozen men in the Command Post and led them in a dash for the house Lieutenant Selvog had seized shortly before. With his party, he

passed through this house and into another one joined to it by an archway. As the group assembled in a glass-enclosed porch at the rear of the house, they heard two Germans calling upon them to surrender. Upon investigation, Sergeant Esparza found the enemy in a hole dug beside the house and shot them both with his carbine.

The enemy opened up on these two houses from all sides with volleys of small arms fire. Every window pane in the two houses was shattered.

At about 1530 hours, enemy troops were discovered moving up toward the rear of the Command Post. Despite multiple wounds, Sergeant Barnette, who was armed with a .45 calibre pistol, and several riflemen left the Command Post and took up positions below an embankment to engage the Germans.

The enemy replied with intense artillery and mortar fire. Sergeant Barnette was wounded for the tenth and eleventh times by a shell fragment which hit him in the head.

Despite their overwhelming numerical and fire superiority, the enemy resorted to treachery. A squad of Germans, one of them holding up a Red Cross banner as a shield, approached the houses held by Lieutenant Selvog and Sergeant Esparza, and shouted, "Surrender!" Sergeant Andrew Letniachyn, a German-speaking squad leader, called on the enemy force to capitulate. No sooner had he spoken than the Germans dropped to the ground and all opened fire with machine pistols. A few minutes later, under the cover of machine gun and shell fire, the enemy squad withdrew.

Shells set fire to the house occupied by Lieutenant Selvog, forcing him to move his men into an adjoining building. Under the intense and furious concentration of artillery fire, two more houses were set ablaze. Lieutenant Selvog led the occupants through enemy fire to the large house at the road junction which was undamaged. He attempted to contact the OP with his 536 radio, but failed. Posting men at the windows and doors, he organized an all-around defense.

Three men stationed in an upstairs room observed an 88mm gun barely 100 yards down the highway to the right and began sniping at the crew with their rifles. The crew quickly retaliated and was joined by another 88mm crew on the other side of the highway and at a greater range, which opened fire on the two houses. Two rounds from the nearer 88mm gun hit the large house squarely, wounding three of the men.

The Command Post bore the brunt of the enemy's mortar, artillery, and anti-tank fire. A man standing in the doorway of the house was knocked flat on his back by the concussion of an anti-tank shell that hit the side of the house. While the steel fragments of shells bursting near the Command Post pockmarked the building, direct hits pounded and rattled the house until it was a wreck. A 170mm shell tore through the roof and dropped into a hayloft less than ten feet from a rifleman. That round failed to explode, but six other shells completely demolished a porch and an attached shed, and blasted and shook the house with deafening power.

A wooden shack near the Command Post, in which Staff Sergeant Walter F. McCoy, Third Platoon Guide, and two other men were stationed, sustained a direct hit from a shell that blew it apart. Stunned by concussion, Sergeant McCoy led his men through enemy machine gun fire, which gashed his neck and shoulder, to the Command Post. Bleeding profusely, he nevertheless defended the Command Post with rifle fire against the savage enemy attacks.

Between the continual shellings, groups of enemy soldiers persistently attempted to infiltrate across the

road and assault the Command Post. Sergeant Grando and Private Virgil Wilson, a rifleman, who were stationed at an upstairs window, killed and wounded at least half a dozen of the enemy. Despite all their efforts, German assault elements crawled into the drainage ditch on the lower side of the road and hurled hand grenades at the house. The defenders fought back with hand grenades.

Men posted in the attic, at the back of the house, at the windows and near the doors, were continuously on the alert, keyed up for counter-attacks. There was not much ammunition available, and they had to fire sparingly and effectively.

Thwarted in his attempts to infiltrate up to the Command Post, the enemy attempted at about 1600 hours to set up machine guns across the secondary road scarcely seventy-five yards from the Command Post. Private First Class James H. Goldsmith, a rifleman in the First Platoon, made this a costly venture.

Posted in the attic of the large house at the road junction, Private First Class Goldsmith kept picking off with M-1 rifle fire the Germans attempting to set up the machine guns. He destroyed two crews, killing or wounding seven of the enemy. His deadly shooting drew return fire from enemy machine guns and machine pistols in positions farther back from the road. Despite bursts of fire coming through the window at which he stood, Private First Class Goldsmith remained steadfast until several bullets wounded him fatally in the groin.

At about 1930 hours, following an intensive artillery and mortar preparation, approximately one hundred enemy soldiers launched a counter-attack under savage covering fire from numerous automatic weapons. The assaulting troops, heavily armed with machine pistols, threw the greatest weight of their attack against the house occupied by Lieutenant Selvog's small group.

Some enemy elements gained the drainage ditch running along the lower edge of the secondary road, while other Germans opened fire from behind a cement wall a short distance to the rear of the Command Post. The enemy also set up a machine gun in the gate of the cemetery and directed point-blank fire at the Command Post across the road.

Hand grenades thrown down into the drainage ditch and at the cement wall prevented the Germans from pressing closer. Every man who could fire a weapon took part in repelling the attack. Captain Yates, after checking his positions on the lower floor of the Command Post, climbed up to the hayloft and joined in the struggle, firing a borrowed rifle. Here he received frequent reports from Private First Class James L. Ruggiero, an ammunition bearer, as he moved fearlessly in and out of the house, checking on positions.

The all around defense was so unyielding that the enemy withdrew after a half hour fire fight, suffering approximately ten casualties.

Upon reorganizing, the men in the Command Post divided rifle ammunition equally. There was an average of two and a half clips per man. When a call was made for grenades, no one responded as there were none left.

The company was dispersed, some elements had lost contact with the Command Post, the wounded were in imperative need of medical treatment. His ammunition almost spent, Captain Yates called for a volunteer patrol to attempt to contact the Battalion headquarters. (On three separate occasions, the Battalion sent out combat patrols to establish contact with Company "L". Despite determined efforts to get through, these patrols were stopped and beaten back by a withering hail of enemy

fire. It was assumed that Company "L" had been surrounded and wiped out.)

Private Bennett A. Walker and two other men volunteered to contact Battalion. As Private Walker stepped out of the rear door of the house, he was greeted with a blast of small arms fire that made him recoil back into the doorway. Captain Yates instructed him to wait until dark. At dusk, he and his men left the Command Post, rushed through the fire of at least four automatic weapons and made their way across open terrain. In the vanishing light, the patrol lost its way to the Battalion, but made contact with Regiment.

But reinforcements did not arrive. Company "I" on the right was suffering heavy casualties and was fighting for survival. Company "K" was committed in a wide flanking movement that carried it to high ground slightly west of Vy-les-Lure early the following morning.

Sergeant Esparza observed a small group of Americans walking down the secondary road. He called out, directing them to the Command Post. The soldiers heard him, but they waved him back urgently from the open Command Post window where he was standing. He then noticed that they were bare headed, that there were walking enemy wounded with them, and that several Germans, armed with automatic weapons, were bringing up the rear. No one in the Command Post dared fire at the guards for fear of reprisals against the prisoners.

This group was also observed by Sergeant Andrew Letnianshyn from the other house. Although completely out of ammunition, he left the building to rescue the prisoners. As he rounded a corner of the house, a large group of Germans jumped on him and took him prisoner.

At about 2100 hours, the enemy once more laid down severe mortar and artillery concentrations on the two houses held by Company "L", rocking both to their foundations. Two prisoners in the Command Post begged their captors to surrender, declaring that otherwise all would be killed. But the men of Company "L" had no thought of surrender or of abandoning their desperate positions.

Several minutes later the enemy launched another counter-attack. It was almost completely dark. At short distances, the silhouettes of advancing Germans could be distinguished, but that was the limit of visibility. While part of the enemy forces attacked frontally, another element swept around to the left of the Command Post, across the road and into the open field to its rear.

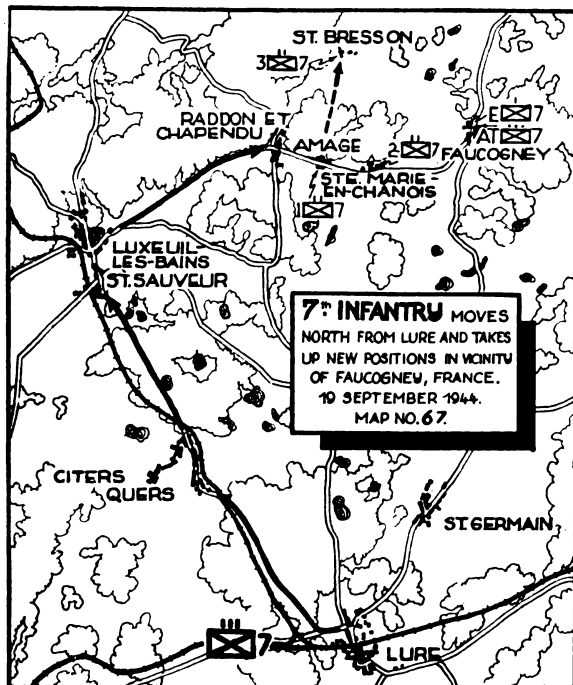
In the deep twilight, the size of the enemy force could not be determined. Judging by the volume of fire, it must have been at least as strong as the previous one. Volleys crackled into the two houses from every direction. Tracers streaked and crossed through the darkness. Rifle grenades and bazooka rockets bored into the houses occupied by the Command Post and Lieutenant Selvog's group.

In these houses, the mixed elements of the company fought desperately, knowing that it would be almost impossible to hold out against an extended attack. Riflemen and machine gunners, mortarmen and the wounded, fought back with M-1s, carbines and pistols, firing carefully in order not to waste a single shot. The ammunition supply of Lieutenant Selvog's force was no larger than that of the Command Post group. The men were instructed to conserve every round.

The right wing of the enemy counter-attack overran scattered elements of the company lying in the ditches along the secondary road and in the open fields beyond. A number of men, several of them wounded, were taken

prisoners, despite desperate attempts by their comrades to hold the Germans back. The impact of the enemy's envelopment was too great for these small groups of men who had already been subjected to artillery, 88mm, mortar, grenade and small arms fire for more than seven hours in open positions without adequate cover.

Again the enemy reached the drainage ditch on the lower side of the secondary road, but he could advance no further. The defenders beat the Germans back with well aimed volleys. After about ten minutes of heavy pressure, the enemy began to withdraw.



Approximately half an hour later, the enemy gathered his forces for a last, desperate attack and surged forward to overrun and destroy the remnants of Company "L". As the fanatical German force advanced, round after round of friendly artillery fire pounded the area. Shells burst within ten feet of the Command Post, their concussion shaking the earth. The German assault force almost reached its goal only to be cut to pieces by this withering concentration of fire. Thirteen Germans, all of them clutching hand grenades, lay dead when the massed artillery fire ceased. Some of these Germans were within twenty feet of the Command Post.

Approximately four hours later, at 0150 hours, a patrol from Company "K" and the Battle Patrol, Seventh Infantry, broke through the enemy cordon and reached the Command Post of the surrounded company. Although many of the men were completely out of ammunition and the rest averaged a rifle clip each, Company "L" had held on grimly to the toe-hold of Vy-les-Lure which had been won at such a heavy cost in blood. The weary, gallant men of the company remained on the alert all night, their bayonets fixed, waiting for another counter-attack which the defeated enemy was too weak to deliver.

Throughout the night, members of the company and the attached machine gun platoon, who had been unable to reach the Command Post by daylight, drifted in singly or in small groups. Every effort was made during the night to keep the wounded alive. Every available first aid packet was used to staunch the bleeding of a dozen

men, and every drop of water was given them. Men ventured outside, fully cognizant of the danger, in order to procure abandoned blankets for the wounded. But elementary first aid was not enough. Four men died during the long night.

Shortly after dawn, a patrol sent out by Captain Yates reported that the enemy had withdrawn completely from Vy-les-Lure.

Company "L" had withstood determined and repeated attacks for seven hours by a fanatical and well-armed enemy, which outnumbered the company three to one. Killing 18, capturing two and wounding an estimated 70 Germans, the men of Company "L" repelled and routed the enemy, driving him from a position which he had been determined to hold at all costs.

Company "L" went into the engagement with four officers and 121 enlisted men, and had attached 29 enlisted men from Company "M" under Technical Sergeant Edward P. Walsh, Jr. Losses sustained were seven killed, 16 missing and 14 wounded in the action.

For its outstanding performance at Vy-les-Lure Company "L" received the Presidential Unit Citation.⁴⁵

Enemy mines and road blocks disabled a tank and jeep that day injuring two persons. The Third Battalion reorganized at 0150 on 16 September and the remaining forces of the Third Battalion entered Vy-les-Lure at 0900.

The Second Battalion meanwhile was engaged in a fight around Hill 383 as patrols reported enemy in strength in Gouhenans. Blocks were established. During the night Company "A" of the 30th Infantry was contacted. At 0635 Company "G" advanced and entered Gouhenans.

At 0715 the Red Battalion continued its advance to the east from La Grange du Veau as the Commanding General ordered the Regiment to maneuver into position for an attack on Lure. The Seventh Infantry was assigned the section of the town south of the railroad tracks while the 15th Infantry on the left was assigned the northern half. At 1350, 16 September the Red Battalion continued the advance against extremely heavy artillery fire which increased when the battalion entered the southern part of Lure and cleared it. Companies "A" and "C" attacked the road junction to the east encountering resistance.⁴⁶

The area around Vy-les-Lure was heavily mined and numerous enemy roadblocks, consisting of fallen trees, were booby-trapped. An anti-tank mine platoon removed mines and road obstacles. After the Third Battalion entered Vy-les-Lure in force 16 September it pushed on northeast to Vouhenans.

Company "A" moved to the north edge of Lure at 0240, 17 September and prepared to establish a road block after the 15th Infantry passed through. Companies "B" and "C" also blocked. The Red Battalion sent Company "C" after the road junction east from Lure at the junction of the 15 and 06 grid lines. The junction was occupied at 0600, 18 September, when the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol passed through and found the town of Roye clear of enemy.

The Second Battalion was relieved in the vicinity of Les Aynans at 0835, 18 September 1944, and moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of Vy-les-Lure. The

⁴⁵ GOs No. 152, 199, 208, 215, 233 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Sept., 4, 8, & 17 Oct. '44, 4 May & 5 Sept. '45. Capt. Yates, Pvt. Finch & S/Sgt. Esparaza, Co. "L"; Sgts. G. P. Grabner & D. C. Jividen, Co. "I"; & Pfc L. S. Fajkowski, Co. "M", were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁶ See GO No. 35, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Feb. '45. Sgt. J. G. Balkovitz was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Blue Battalion remained in the vicinity of Vouhenans during the day and sent patrols to Moffans. At the close of 18 September 1944 the Red Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Magny-Vernois.

On 19 September 1944 the Regiment was relieved of positions by elements of the First French Armored Division and moved by vehicle through Luxeuil-les-Bains to the vicinity of Raddon-et-Chapeneu where the Regimental Command Post was set up. The Second Battalion relieved elements of the 142nd Infantry in the vicinity of Ste Marie-en-Chanois while the Third Battalion relieved elements of the same regiment in the vicinity of St. Bresson. During the night Company "E" and a platoon of Anti-Tank Company moved to the vicinity of Faucogney. The First Battalion assembled in the vicinity of Amage.

the next morning attacked to the northeast for Hill 373, as the White and Blue Battalions continued their attacks.

The Red troops encountered strong resistance in the vicinity of Hill 753 and did not overcome it until on the 22nd when the battalion began advancing on the fort to the northeast.

During the period 20-30 September 1944 weather was inclement each day. The heavy rains increased the hardships of the men.⁴⁸

The White Battalion seized La Longine without any trouble. "George" Company then moved north for Hill 753 as "Fox" Company moved north along the highway.

The advance of the Blue Battalion was halted in the vicinity of Le Martenot due to heavy small arms,



"Cotton Balers" march through Faucogney, France.

SEVENTH INFANTRY ATTACKS TO THE NORTHEAST 20 SEPTEMBER 1944

At 0630, 20 September 1944 the Seventh Infantry attacked northeast with the Second and Third Battalions, reinforced, on the line. Company "E" advanced along the highway northeast from Faucogney. Both battalions advanced against scattered enemy small arms and mortar fire on the first day but on the second day of the attack resistance became stronger with heavy concentra-

machine gun and mortar fire. Constant contact with the enemy was maintained and numerous attempts to infiltrate and penetrate his lines failed. All three battalions pressed their advances 22-23 September 1944 and defeated stubborn enemy resistance.

The White Battalion advanced slowly through Corvillers-le-Plain encountering enemy small arms fire and some artillery.

The Blue Battalion consolidated its positions on 23 September 1944 and the Third Battalion, 15th Infantry, became attached to the Regiment, late in the day, to protect the right flank.



Capt. Tyler Campbell, Co. "A", and 1 Lt. Leonard Buschel, Co. "L", were killed in action on 21 September 1944.

tions of artillery received.

The Second Battalion took Hill 59 with "Easy" Company seizing Effrency and "Fox" Company taking La Rochette.⁴⁷ The Blue Battalion advanced across country.

The night of 20 September 1944 the Red Battalion moved to an assembly area about Effrency and at 0630

SEVENTH INFANTRY FIGHTS ITS WAY ACROSS LA MOSELLE RIVER 24 SEPTEMBER 1944

By its continuous drive the gallant Seventh Infantry reached another river in France, the night of 23-24 September 1944. This time it was La Moselle and the enemy hoped to destroy all bridges over it and use it as

⁴⁷ See GO No. 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '45. Pfc Harry E. Frank was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁸ See GOs No. 35, 47, 59, 208 & 219, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 Oct. '44 & 4, 12 & 23 Feb., & 12 June '45. Capt. R. D. Marsh, 2 Bn Hq Co., S/Sgts. F. W. Clark & M. A. Pyatt, Co. "A", & Pvt. E. W. Pixley, M.D., were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

holding line but the Seventh Infantry, driving without let-up, seized two bridges before the enemy could blow them and fought its way across.

At 0110, 24 September 1944, Company "B", under the command of First Lieutenant William K. Dieleman, secured a bridge at Rupt-sur-Moselle and defeated numerous enemy attempts to destroy it. The bridge had been prepared for demolition with nineteen cases of TNT but the "Baker" Company boys had struck so swiftly that the Germans, whose assignment it was to blow the bridge, were never able to accomplish their mission. A strong enemy force attempted to retake the bridge but was repulsed by the "Baker" Company "Cotton Balers."

At 0445 the entire First Battalion crossed the Moselle by the bridge secured by Company "B" and engaged enemy in a heavy fire fight in Rupt-sur-Moselle. Private Jakob L. Beber of Company "D" displayed gallantry.⁴⁹

About one mile north of Rupt-sur-Moselle, at Maxonchamp, was a small, open, iron bridge, barely wide enough for a jeep to pass over. It was about sixty feet in length and exposed along its entire length to intense enemy machine gun and sniper fire.

Company "K", under the command of First Lieutenant George W. Lauderdale, drove on for the bridge.

While one officer misbehaved before the enemy at Maxonchamp, another and an enlisted man performed gallantly, effected the seizure of the bridge and led Com-

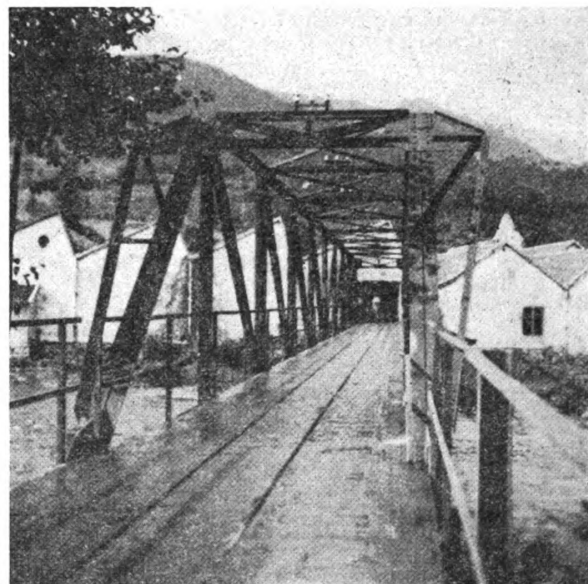
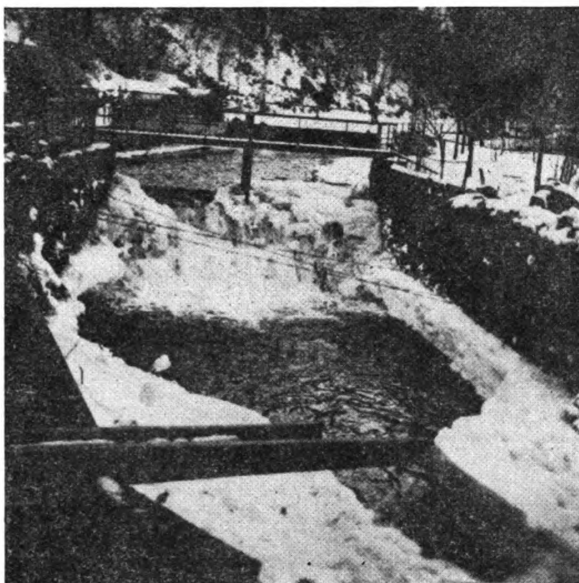
work Technical Sergeant Jones again exposed himself to murderous enemy fire to direct his men to a prearranged assembly point from whence a successful attack on an enemy strong point was launched. While performing



After the fighting had passed in Rupt-sur-Moselle some members of the Regiment received soup from French nuns.

that act, he was killed by enemy machine gun fire.

The intrepid actions of Technical Sergeant Jones and First Lieutenant Lauderdale resulted in the establishment of a firm bridgehead over La Moselle and enabled



Two views of the bridge at Maxonchamp, France.

pany "K" over La Moselle. After three men had become casualties from the enemy fire across the river, First Lieutenant Lauderdale called for volunteers to follow him over the bridge. Four men responded and followed their commanding officer as he dashed over the bridge. On the other side First Lieutenant Lauderdale called back to another officer to lead his platoon across, but the platoon leader refused.

Technical Sergeant Leonard A. Jones then re-crossed the open bridge amid the enemy machine gun and sniper fire at ranges of 30 to 150 yards, to persuade the rest of the company to make the hazardous crossing. His fearless action made the men forget their fear and to follow him over the bridge to establish themselves on the far side of La Moselle. Having accomplished that important

the remainder of the Blue Battalion to cross and continue its mission.⁵⁰

The Red Battalion cleared Rupt-sur-Moselle of enemy and continued the attack for Hill 867, which was reported captured by "Able" Company at 1700, 24 September but the report was false. "Baker" Company moved southeast along the river toward La Roche and established blocks.

⁴⁹ GO No. 316, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 Sept. '45. Pvt. Beber was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁰ GOs No. 290 & 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 14 Dec. '44 & 11 Jan. '45. T/Sgt. Jones (posthumously) & 1 Lt. Lauderdale were each awarded the Silver Star Medal. The disgraced officer departed from the Seventh Infantry.

Meanwhile the White Battalion combatted stubborn enemy resistance in its drive for La Moselle. A coordinated Infantry-tank attack drove the enemy from his positions and the battalion advanced to the river. At 0125, 25 September the White, or Second, Battalion assembled north of the river.

7th INFANTRY ADVANCES NORTH AND SOUTH ALONG LA MOSELLE—COMPANY "F" WINS PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATION AS SECOND BATTALION REPULSES STRONG COUNTER-ATTACKS 25-30 SEPTEMBER 1944

At 0630, 25 September 1944, both the Third and Second Battalions launched attacks. The Blue forces attacked to the north along La Moselle and encountered enemy small arms and machine gun fire. At 1125 Hiele and Vecoux were taken. At 1340 forward elements of Company "K" defeated small groups of enemy and had advanced to Dommartin-les-Remiremont. At 1445 Company "I" seized Hill 722. One patrol contacted elements of the 36th Infantry Division near Remiremont.

The White Battalion, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro, attacked southeast parallel to La Moselle river. For the next few days the battalion, in continuous rain and fog, which prevented support from the air arm and attached armor, with green and untried men, engaged in very hard fighting and beat back strong enemy counter-attacks, to capture its objectives. Company "F" fought brilliantly while the great leader of the battalion displayed extraordinary heroism in leading his troops during the action of those days.

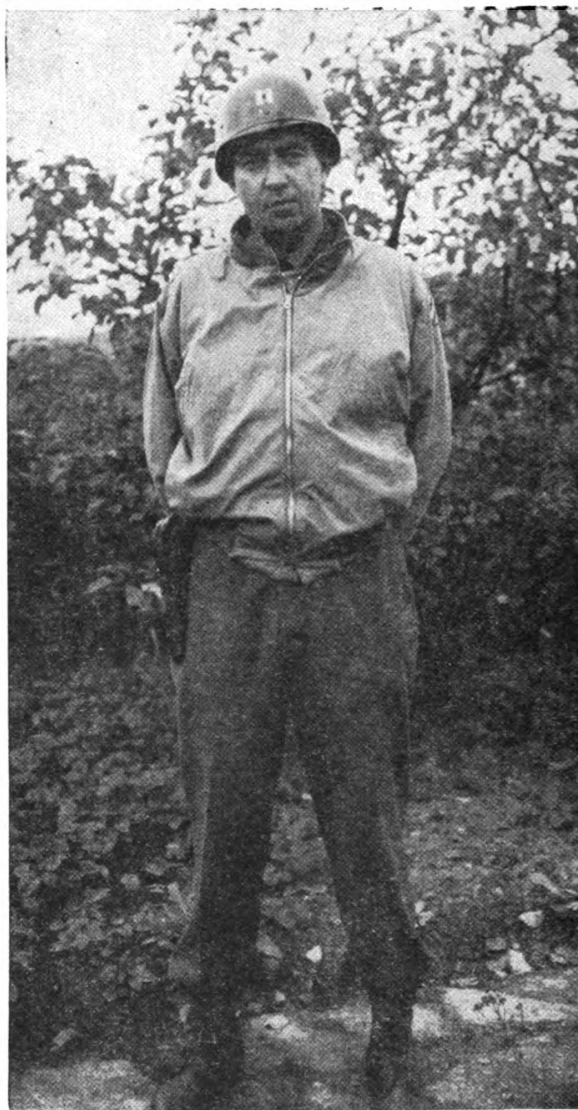
Almost immediately after the jump-off the White Battalion was stopped by heavy enemy machine gun, mortar and small arms fire from enemy dug-in positions on Hills 867, and 868 north of the highway. Before the advance could be continued the enemy on the hills had to be removed.

The Second Battalion attacked in a column of companies over the muddy, cleared ground toward the wooded slopes of Hill 867 through heavy concentrations of 150mm fire. Entering the woods, the troops were obliged to inch forward through thick underbush into a dense pine forest where many enemy elements lay concealed and waiting. The ground was too soft for tank support and the rain and fog made artillery and aerial observation ineffective.

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro immediately joined the forward elements in order to press the attack. Although everyone else was lying flat on the ground, taking whatever cover was available, the Second Battalion leader walked fearlessly from man to man directing fire and helping the new replacements to overcome their fear. Machine gun bullets, fired from approximately one hundred yards, barely missed. Shells with point detonating fuzes exploded on contact with tree branches and caused heavy casualties. When darkness finally came the assault companies were able to dig in on the lower slopes of Hill 867.

On the morning of 26 September 1944 the slow, upward advance was resumed through the fog and cold rain. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro remained with his forward companies, deliberately choosing the most exposed positions and inspiring the men with his scorn of danger. The woods were becoming denser, enabling the enemy to fire his machine guns, automatic pistols and rifles from concealment at distances of 30 to 50 yards. Due to the extremely close range, the Germans were unable to continue shelling the assault companies with artillery.

In the final stages of the attack on Hill 867, the men were obliged to proceed single file over the crest, which was swept by fierce enemy fire. When a platoon of Company "F" was halted by fire from two machine guns only 50 yards distant, Lieutenant Colonel Thobro ran forward through sniper fire to the platoon and standing behind a four-foot embankment, directed artillery and mortar fire on the enemy for forty-five minutes with devastating effect. Having paved the way with the bar-



The veteran Captain Edgar H. Poinsett commanded Company "G" during the Anzio Beachhead fighting and through the Southern France campaign.

rages, he directed the assault elements in a final attack on the hill, which knocked out two machine guns, killed thirty of the enemy and gained undisputed possession of the entire crest.

With Hill 867 firmly in the possession of his battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Thobro ordered "George" Company, still under the command of Captain Edgar H. Poinsett, to descend its eastern slope, cross a north-south road and assault the neighboring Hill 868 as possession

of the two hills would ensure command of the disputed stretch of La Moselle River Valley and the town of Ferdrupt.

As "George" Company went down into the valley between the two hills, Lieutenant Colonel Thobro took six men with him to a position approximately 75 yards beyond the crest of the Hill 867, where he could observe the progress of the assault on Hill 868.

About one hour later as the battalion commander observed the progress of Company "G", much shouting and yelling from the left flank of the battalion's position could be heard. It was the beginning of an attack by about two hundred fifty Germans to regain Hill 867 and cut off Company "G". Machine gun fire traversed the area around where Lieutenant Colonel Thobro stood and mortar shells began exploding in the area. An officer suggested to the battalion commander that he withdraw or take cover, but preoccupied with the progress of Company "G" on Hill 868, he refused.

Soon wounded and withdrawing soldiers singly, or dragging other wounded, began streaming by the commander's position, trying to regain safety behind the crest of the hill. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro received the report that the platoons on the left flank of the battalion were being overwhelmed by the German counter-attack in great strength and that all but a 60mm mortar squad had been killed, wounded or dispersed, and the mortar squad was then in the progress of withdrawing in pairs.

Realizing that the whole flank was crumbling, Lieutenant Colonel Thobro directed that the reserve company send two platoons to the crest of Hill 867 to fight the enemy. The battalion commander then started toward the northern crest of Hill 867 and encountered men running from the scene of battle in disorder. He pulled his .45 automatic pistol and threatened to shoot any who retreated further, saying: "Now, God damn it, this is as far as you go."

By brandishing his pistol Lieutenant Colonel Thobro was able to get several men back in the fight. He placed them in position behind the ridge and ordered them to stay there and beat off the attack. At that time all hell let loose as the nearest enemy groups were from 30 to 35 yards away throwing everything they had at the White Battalion troops. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro remained standing through it all as his troops took advantage of whatever cover there was available and returned fire. A steady stream of automatic fire grazed the slope of the hill and a man close to the Lieutenant Colonel was killed by the fire, as another nearby was killed by a mortar shell. As the enemy advanced relentlessly Lieutenant Colonel Thobro moved from man to man, walking up and down the firing line without the slightest cover. He ordered the heavy mortars of Company "H" set up right on the crest of Hill 867 and fired at a maximum elevation. As a large number of advancing Germans were within 100 yards of the positions, the 81mm mortar rounds exploded behind and around them causing much confusion.

At a crucial time two platoons of riflemen from the reserve company reinforced the force on Hill 867 and in a savage fight the German attack was beaten off. As the enemy withdrew Lieutenant Colonel Thobro ordered a counter-attack which was successful and resulted in the capture of several of the enemy including an officer.

Meanwhile Company "G" completed its mission and captured Hill 868. Bitter fighting ensued around Hill 867 until the 28th when the enemy was completely overcome. The battalion resumed the attack from Hill 868 at 0730, 28 September and again became engaged in heavy fighting, but the town was completely in hand

by mid-afternoon. A heavy amount of enemy artillery fire harassed the battalion throughout the remainder of the day and Company "F" once again repelled a counter-attack. Company "G" moved through Ferdrupt to a position about 500 yards to the east in spite of enemy ambushing tactics in the woods.

While the Second Battalion was attacking for Ferdrupt, 25-28 September 1944, the First Battalion cleared Rupt-sur-Moselle, advanced toward La Moselotte River, and protected the left flank of the Second Battalion. One platoon of Company "A" advanced toward Thieffosse on the 26th and sought to fire artillery on the main highway from Vagney to Saulxures-sur-Moselotte but poor visibility prevented accomplishment of the mission. On 27-28 September Companies "A" and "B" supported the advance of the Second Battalion.



Capt. C. Henry Goullette, A.T. Co., and Lt. Paul J. Tron, Co. "A", were killed in action on 30 September and 1 October 1944.

On the 27th while supporting the advance of the Second Battalion Company "A" received the full shock of an enemy counter-attack and two of its members displayed unusual heroism. When the company fell back under the impact of the formidable and unexpected German onslaught Private First Class James M. Haight set up his machine gun and singlehandedly engaged the foe in his sector to prevent a German breakthrough. While disorganization spread among the withdrawing elements, Private First Class Haight withstood a continuous chain of automatic fire at a range of thirty yards, killed seven Germans and, although assaulted from both front and flanks, remained at his post until he was killed.

When his isolated mortar section was attacked by a German company, Staff Sergeant Virgil D. Fisher engaged the numerically superior enemy with M-1 rifle fire to cover the withdrawal of his men. Though two men were killed by his side and bullets chipped the rocks beside him, he fought on practically singlehandedly repelling every enemy assault, killing nine and wounding twelve of the enemy.

The extraordinary heroism of Private First Class Haight and Staff Sergeant Fisher held the Germans at bay until Company "A" was able to re-organize and, with re-inforcements, shatter the enemy counter-attacking force.

Company "C" advanced through the Foret de Longeoutte for La Moselotte River and Company "B" moved abreast of "C" on the 29th.

During the period the Third Battalion continued to clear its sector. Company "L" remained in Vecoux as Companies "I" and "K" cleared Franould and the woods between La Moselle and La Moselotte rivers, southeast of where they join. Enemy small arms, mortar, artillery and flak wagon fire were encountered. On the 27th a patrol of Company "K" directed artillery on Vagney across La Moselotte. Aggressive patrols were maintained on the 28th as the Blue Battalion remained in position.

During the period 29 September-1 October 1944 the Regiment for the most part remained in position between La Moselle and La Moselotte rivers, but was in continuous contact with the enemy. Heavy artillery concentrations fell on Ferdrupt and Company "F" again repelled an enemy counter-attack.

For outstanding fighting performances during those last days of September 1944 Company "F" was cited by the President of the United States and all its surviving members were later authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge. The extraordinary heroism displayed by Private First Class Haught, Lieutenant Colonel Thobro and Staff Sergeant Fisher merited an award to each of the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumous award to Pfc. Haught).⁵¹ Several others had performed gallantly.⁵²

The re-inforced Regiment continued to hold and clear its sector of enemy resistance on 1-2 October 1944. An ammunition jeep belonging to the Second Battalion was ambushed by the enemy and destroyed, with two men being killed.

While the Third Battalion (re-inforced) remained in position conducting active patrols and screening missions to the front, the Second and First Battalions withdrew from their positions during the nights of 2-3 and 3-4 October 1944, assembled in the vicinity of Rupt-sur-Moselle and moved by vehicle to the vicinity of St. Ame, France. Both battalions then conducted reconnaissance and formulated plans for an attack toward Vagney from the northwest, in conjunction with an attack by the Third Battalion from the west. The First French Armored Division came up on the right of the Regiment, while the 15th Infantry took up positions on the left.

On one occasion Private First Class Harold L. Blackman, a Browning automatic rifleman of Company "A", abandoned a position of cover and surprised a group of twelve enemy soldiers who were armed with machine guns and machine pistols and planned to establish a road block. In a brief fire fight he killed six and captured four of the enemy. Staff Sergeant Hugh A. Lilevjen of Cannon Company and Private First Class Albert J. Marchunsky of Company "D" eliminated enemy weapons and captured German soldiers.⁵³

7th INFANTRY CAPTURES VAGNEY AND SAPOIS—4-11 OCTOBER 1944

In the afternoon of 4 October 1944, the Second Battalion moved to a position northeast of Le Syndicat and east from Bemont and at 1705 opened the attack for Vagney by moving northeast for Hill 828, which was seized fifty minutes later against small arms and machine gun fire. Eleven enemy were taken prisoners. At 1905 Companies "E" and "F" received heavy artillery fire and then were harassed throughout the night by the enemy artillery.

At 0415, 5 October the enemy attacked Companies "E" and "F" and an all-morning battle ensued as the Germans tried to retake the hill, but to no avail.

The Red Battalion moved from St. Ame through the woods to the right flank of the White Battalion during the morning of the 5th and at 1330 launched an attack through the woods due east, and in turn repulsed a counter-attack.

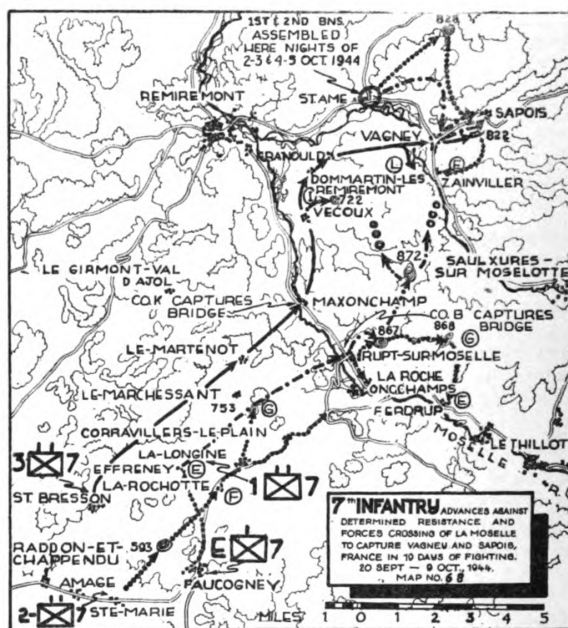
At 2017 the Second Battalion left Company "E" on Hill 828 and moved south behind the First Battalion. Company "E" also left the hill at 0205, 6 October and rejoined its battalion. The Second Battalion followed the First until 1020, 6 October, when it pulled up on the right flank and the two battalions attacked together towards Cremanviller.

The Third Battalion had remained in position conducting vigorous patrols until 0400, 6 October, when it too attacked toward Vagney, but from the west. Company "K" crossed La Moselotte against little opposition two hours later. Three houses were seized on the edge of Vagney and resistance became stronger as an enemy

self-propelled gun began firing down the street and our artillery took it under fire. Company "I" following "K", was delayed from crossing the river, by intense enemy flak wagon fire. "Item" Company did not completely cross the river until 1840 that day as the enemy fire was continuous and very heavy. "King" Company repulsed an enemy counter-attack supported by tanks in the meantime, and fought a house to house battle with the enemy.

The First and Second Battalions moved rapidly during the initial stages of their attack and captured Cremanviller and Hill 822 but were slowed by intense enemy mortar, artillery, machine gun and small arms fire when they approached the Vagney-Sapois road.

The units remained in contact with the enemy during the night of 6-7 October and early on the 7th continued the attack. Companies "I" and "K" fought to gain control of Vagney, which was accomplished before noon-time. Company "L" proceeded southeast along the west side of La Moselotte to seize the bridge at Zainvillers.



The Red and White Battalions cut the Vagney-Sapois road against strong resistance as the White Battalion sped on southeast from Hill 822 for the high ground east of Zainvillers. The Red Battalion sent Company "A" east of Vagney on the south side of the road while Company "C" and a platoon of Company "B" moved east, on the north of the road, to Hills 692 and 760. The remainder of Company "B" went into position at the edge of Vagney where the First Battalion set up its command post.

⁵¹ For authority see GOs 24, 176 and 181, Hq. 7th Army, 29 Jan., 6 and 7 May 1945.

⁵² See GOs No. 11, 13, 22, 59, 70, 145, 175, 226 & 256, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11, 13, 22 Jan., 23 & 26 Feb., 29 Apr., 24 May, 24 June & 15 July '45. 1 Sgt. G. O. Lindert, Sgt. E. R. Rothermund (posthumously), Pfc. S. F. Bieslada, R. D. Easter & G. R. Orr, Co. "F", P. P. Guanci & Pvt. N. J. Frega, Co. "H"; S/Sgt. C. K. Seifarth, B.P.; Pfc W. Frecentese, M.D.; 1 Lt. F. J. Nisi, 2 Bn Hq Co.; & 2 Lt. J. P. McConnell, 1 Bn Hq Co., were each awarded the Silver Star Medal. Pfc J. H. Zawacki, Co. "C", was awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁵³ GOs No. 40, 235 & 294, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Dec. '44 & 9 Feb. & 29 June '45, S/Sgt. Lilevjen, Pfc. Blackman & Marchunsky were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

When his unit of Company "B" was temporarily halted near Vagney, Private First Class Walter E. Halley voluntarily advanced eighty yards through blistering machine gun cross-fire to kill a two-man crew with hand grenades. He then shot two support riflemen and crawled fifteen yards toward a second enemy machine gun, then jumped to his feet and silenced the enemy weapon with "Tommy Gun" fire. By his fearless assault he destroyed two enemy machine guns, killed five and wounded one of the enemy, and disorganized German resistance in his unit's sector. For his extraordinary heroism Private First Class Halley was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁵⁴

Following the capture of Vagney, Company "K" sped east for Hill 822 as Company "I" moved to the south edge of Vagney and "L" Company still remained on the west side of La Mosellotte opposite Zainvillers. The Regimental Battle Patrol moved southeast along La Mosellotte on the east side of the river for Zainvillers and closed in on the town as a platoon of Company "E" came in from the Second Battalion positions to the east.

Vagney had been a hard town to take and as it turned out was still a hot spot. While the fighting was still in progress and enemy shell fire dropped in the area the Regimental Command Post displaced into the northern section of the town. Colonel Ben Harrell, who was known to keep his command post farther forward than

Tank Destroyer Battalion was quickly brought to the side of the building, which housed the War Room and an observation post was established on the second floor of the building. Members of the command post gave fire orders to the tank destroyer, which fired seventeen rounds. Not a shot was wasted. The house, beside which the flak wagon was seen to have taken cover, was demolished and when the smoke cleared, not a German could be seen and it could definitely be said that the Nazi lost another flak wagon and several more of their men.



Aid men remove the body of a tankman of the 756th Battalion from a knocked-out tank in Vagney.



"Cotton Balers" cross over a destroyed bridge in Vagney, France.

any other regimental commander in the Third Division, deliberately sacrificed the security of his War Room to remain in constant contact and control of the combat units. The command posts of the First and Third Battalions were also located in Vagney.

At about 1600 hours, thirty enemy riflemen and a flak wagon were spotted firing on the command post and the town of Vagney. A tank destroyer of the 601st

In the late afternoon and hours of darkness on 7 October the enemy threw powerful attacks at Vagney and all the battalions of the Regiment. Weather conditions conspired to help the enemy with fog and the blackness of the night.

The right flank of Company "I" was penetrated and an enemy force broke through between Company "E" and other Second Battalion elements. Two enemy tanks penetrated the Third Battalion's positions and approached the vicinity of the Third Battalion Command Post. Efforts to destroy them proved unsuccessful.



Vagney, France, as seen from the air in October 1944.

An enemy tank supported by riflemen succeeded in entering Vagney at 2022 and caused much havoc and alarm. As the enemy tank boldly entered the town by the road from Sapois many of the First Battalion forces paid no heed as they thought it a friendly tank withdrawing. However when the tank began shooting up the First Battalion Command Post with direct fire there was no mistake as to its true identity. A direct hit was scored on the Red Battalion Headquarters destroying the switchboard and causing casualties.

⁵⁴ For authority see GO 585, Hq. 7th Army, WMD, 6 Oct. 1945.

A supporting tank platoon of the 756th Tank Battalion was in Vagney at the time. Second Lieutenant James L. Harris, in command of the friendly tanks, went forward to investigate the shooting. Machine guns mounted on the enemy tank began spouting lead and the first burst caught Second Lieutenant Harris squarely, knocked him to the ground and killed another man. The Lieutenant then displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty by crawling back thirty yards through the hail of enemy fire and ordered his first tank to move into a firing position into a covered archway, but before the friendly tank could go into action direct hits from the enemy tank set it aflame. As all the First Battalion elements were alerted and assisted in repelling the attack, fierce fighting ensued. At 2250 the attack on Vagney was repulsed.

Medical personnel attached to the First Battalion rushed to the aid of the wounded tankers of the 756th Tank Battalion but Second Lieutenant Harris refused attention until the sole survivor of his tank crew had received aid. "After I had evacuated the enlisted men I returned to help Lieutenant Harris," said medic, Private Burton B. Roberts. "He asked me if I had taken care of his men and I told him I had. He seemed relieved. He told me he was done for and I saw that his right leg had been cut off at the crotch, apparently by the flying pieces of armor plate from his tank. He was in bad shape. I don't see how he lived as long as he did."

Colonel Ben Harrell later paid tribute to the dead tanker who had sacrificed his life for the glory of his country and the military service.

"The Germans had struck at the heart of a vital command area," commented Colonel Harrell. "As a result of Lieutenant Harris's heroism and single-minded devotion, the force of their blow was warded off; the battalion command post was saved from possible destruction and an interruption of offensive operations in that sector of the Vosges was averted." Second Lieutenant Harris was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Fierce close-in hand to hand battles ensued with enemy in various sections of the Regiment's sector. Company "K" sent two platoons to the assistance of "Item" Company. After bitter fighting the enemy was beaten off. Company "L" destroyed a truck load of enemy but was unable to secure the Zainvillers bridge which was blown by the enemy.

At daylight, 8 October, Companies "A" and "C" began attacking to the northeast. The advance was delayed by heavy enemy small arms and mortar fire.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol and the platoon from Company "E" succeeded in overcoming enemy small arms and machine gun fire in Zainvillers and seized the town at 1030, 8 October.

Company "A" drove to Sapois in the afternoon and at 1830 had captured a section of houses on the edge of the town with twenty prisoners. The bridge on the outskirts of Sapois was blown by the enemy.

Company "L" moved into Vagney then attacked to the east to establish contact on the right flank of Company "K". Heavy artillery and small arms fire were received as the company advanced. One platoon went along the main road for Lejole.

The Second Battalion was relieved of its positions by Company "I" during the morning of 9 October, then assembled in Vagney. Company "A" continued to clear Sapois of enemy who resisted stubbornly. Company "C" occupied Hill 760 and patrolled vigorously.

During the heavy fighting for Vagney and Sapois many "Cotton Balers" displayed gallantry.⁵⁵ Private

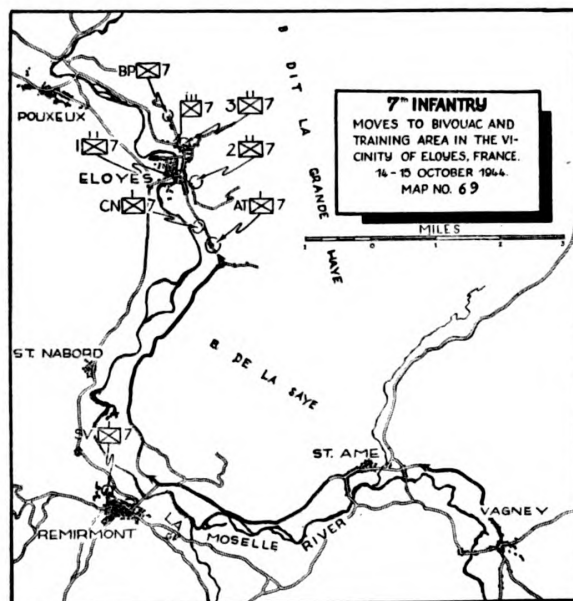
First Class Orville L. Miller, Private First Class Russell J. Soyster and Private George E. Shinnamon, all of Company "C", on separate occasions killed enemy and eliminated machine gun nests holding up the advance. Private First Class Melvin C. Strickland of Company "B" also eliminated a German machine gun nest and a bazooka crew.

Private First Class John F. Leassner, Private Paul L. Castanon and Private John A. Henrich of Company "D" repelled three enemy attacks of platoon strength against their heavy machine gun position.



An air photo of Sapois, France.

Mortarmen Sergeant Robert J. Sneckenberger, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Private First Class Harold I. Palley, of Company "G", First Lieutenant Charles L. Treadway of Company "M" and Technician Fifth Grade Laverne P. Fotsch of the Medical Detachment were among those who performed gallantly. First Lieutenant William D. Anthony of Company "I" was particularly skillful and courageous while leading his rifle platoon.



⁵⁵ See GOs No. 11, 13, 59, 89, 163, 171, 187, 257, 263 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Nov. & 27 Dec. '44, 11 & 13 Jan., 23 Feb., 9 Mar., 16, 22 & 30 May & 15 July '45. 1 Lt Treadway & Pfc Blackman were each awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. Anthony, 2 Lt. Sigel, S/Sgt. Fanelli, Sgt. Sneckenberger (posthumously), Sgt. Stage, T/5 Fotsch, Pvts. F. C. Gullet, Leasaner, Miller, Palley, Soyster & Strickland: Pvts. Castanon, Henrich & Shinnamon were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Sergeant Shirley E. Stage, machine gun squad leader, and Private First Class Lewis W. Gullet, a Browning automatic rifleman, both of Company "E", and Staff Sergeant Michael C. Fanelli, light machine gun section leader of Company "F", were also outstanding.

In the first fighting for Sapois, Second Lieutenant Franz Sigel and Private First Class Harold L. Blackman, both of Company "A", displayed bravery and good leadership.

During the period 9-14 October the Regiment conducted only limited operations, rehabilitated troops and engaged in some light training.

The Third Battalion cleared its sector of small arms and machine gun resistance and established a series of blocks. During the night of 9-10 October Company "K" affected the relief of the First Battalion which assembled Companies "A" and "B" in Vagney and Company "C" north of the town.

French forces assumed defense of Blocks 4, 5 and 6 and Company "I" reverted to Third Battalion reserve in Vagney on the 10th. The Second Battalion moved by foot from Vagney and closed into St. Ame at 1700.



An air photo of St. Ame, France.

The battle to clear Sapois continued with the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol continuing on where Company "A" left off and finally occupying the town on 11 October. Company "K" elements relieved the Regimental Battle Patrol at 1030 and only the Blue Battalion and Anti-Tank Company, which manned one block, were in the lines.

Companies "B" and "C", 48th Engineer Battalion, became attached to the Regiment and manned Road Block No. 7. A platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop maintained patrols between blocks.

Late in the day of 11 October, the two attached companies of the 48th Engineer Battalion relieved the Third Battalion on position and Company "B" took over the

road block formerly manned by the engineers. Company "C" relieved "Baker" Company on the 13th.

The French finally gathered enough Infantry to assume responsibility for the sector and passed through the Regiment to continue pressure against the enemy. The Seventh Infantry was relieved of all responsibility and in turn relieved all attachments, 14 October.

During the night and morning of 14-15 October, the Regiment moved by vehicle from the vicinity of Vagney, St. Ame and Remiremont to the vicinity of Eloyes, France.



Three of 7 "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives on 7 October 1944 were: (1) Pfc Paul K. Huston, Co. "E"; (2) Pvt. Robert D. Patton, Jr., Co. "C", and (3) 1 Lt. Marwood S. Taylor, Co. "G".

During the two months' campaign (15 August-14 October 1944 inclusive) the Seventh Infantry fought, marched and rode its way from the Riviera to the foothills of the Vosges mountains. The Campaign of Southern France⁵⁶ was reminiscent of the Sicilian Campaign and consisted of an amphibious landing then pursuit of the enemy. Highlights of the campaign were the amphibious landing on invasion day, ambushing of the German convoys north of Montelimar, the Battle of Besancon, the fighting for Vy-les-Lure and the fighting for Vagney and Sapois. As always, gains of the Regiment were made at a cost in lives: 286 "Cotton Balers" are definitely known to have been killed during the action, the wounded numbered about three times as many. The costliest days were 15 August and 15 September when 58 and 20 "Cotton Balers" respectively were killed. Though contact at times was broken with the enemy because of his rapid withdrawal first actual relief from combat came the morning of 15 October when the French passed through the Regiment's lines.

From 15 to 19 October 1944 inclusive the Seventh Infantry conducted an extensive training program in the vicinity of Eloyes, France and stressed combat in wooded and mountainous terrain, discipline and physical conditioning. Replacements were received. The troops were billeted in buildings, or slept in pyramidal tents.

⁵⁶ The Southern France Campaign as determined by the War Dept. was for the period 15 Aug.-14 Sept. 1944. In this work, for the 7th Infantry the campaign is considered to have lasted throughout the period 15 Aug.-14 Oct. 1944 as actually the first relief from operations in France came on 15 Oct. 1944.

Bitter Fighting from Grandvillers to Le Haute Jacques in the Vosges Mountains

On 19 October 1944 the Third Infantry Division issued instructions which directed the resumption of the attack against the enemy.⁵⁷

The number one assault regiment of the Third Division, the Seventh Infantry, was directed to be prepared to open the attack after 1400, 20 October 1944 from a line of departure southeast of Grandvillers, to seize the important road junctions north of Bruyeres, which town had been taken by friendly VI Corps forces the day before, seize Vervezelle, Belmont and Domfaing, then be prepared to continue the attack to the east or south. The Regiment was directed to move from Eloyes at 0700 on 20 October 1944, via Jarmenil, Chenimenil, Aydoilles, Girecourt and Gugnécourt, to an assembly area just east of Grandvillers.

The 15th Infantry was given instructions to commence moving from St. Etienne, where it had rehabilitated and trained for a period similar to that conducted by the Seventh Infantry, commencing at 1300, 20 October 1944, proceed to Grandvillers and be prepared to attack at 0700, 21 October on the left of the Seventh Infantry and on the left of La Mortagne River Valley, which was to be the boundary between the regiments.

The 30th Infantry which had remained in the line, holding and patrolling while the 7th and 15th Infantry's rehabilitated and trained for the five days, was to continue its mission and revert to Division reserve.

7th INFANTRY OPENS THE THIRD DIVISION ATTACK—20 OCTOBER 1944

The Seventh Infantry moved by motor from Eloyes to Grandvillers, over the prescribed route, the morning of 20 October 1944 and completely closed into the assembly area at 1120. The troops marched two miles southeast on the road by foot and closed into forward assembly areas in the wooded hills.

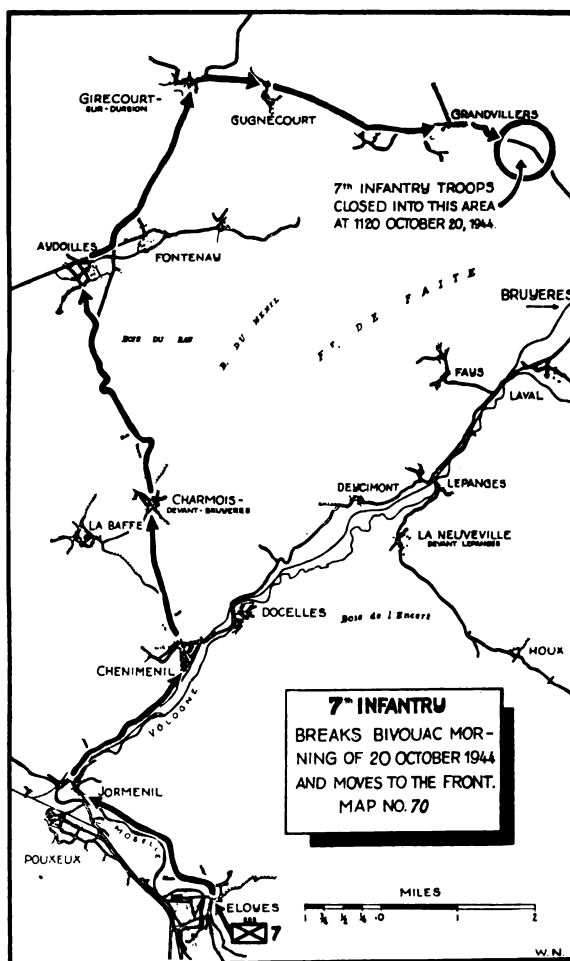
The Seventh Infantry lost no time in going into the attack. At twelve noon the Red Battalion, commanded by Maior Benjamin C. Boyd, passed through elements of the 179th Infantry and commenced the attack against the enemy, with Company "C" on the right and Company "A" on the left. Immediately enemy small arms and machine gun fire was received from built-in bunker positions having overhead cover.

Company "C" was halted by withering machine gun cross-fire. Private Thomas R. Small crawled forward through the bands of automatic fire and assaulted the enemy with rifle-launched grenades. Although severely wounded by grenade fragments, he came within thirty-five yards of one enemy machine gun and destroyed it. With a great volume of German fire concentrated upon him, Private Small crawled fifteen yards more and knocked out a second machine gun with his last grenade. He then killed a German grenadier with rifle fire. Having killed three and wounded three Germans the intrepid, young soldier had shattered an entire hostile position. For his extraordinary heroism Private Small was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁵⁸

In another sector on Company "C's" front Staff Sergeant Joseph A. Pittaluga knocked out a German machine gun with a rifle grenade and killed the enemy crew with fire from his Thompson sub-machine gun.⁵⁹

The Third Battalion commanded by Major Glen E. Rathbun attacked at 1500 and moved southeast, south of the road. The battalion passed along the northeast slope of Montagne de Buemont then cut the first road up from Bruyeres and headed northeast for the second road junction.

The 100th Battalion of the 442nd Infantry was attacking the objective east of the second road junction, the high ground of Pointhare. The Blue Battalion became engaged in a heavy fire fight but Company "K"



⁵⁷ O. I. No. 89, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Remiremont, France, 19 Oct. 1944 (1900A).

⁵⁸ For authority see GO 625, Hq. 7th Army, WMD, 22 Oct. 1945.

⁵⁹ GO No. 22, HQ. 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. 1945. S/Sgt. Pittaluga was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

captured the important road junction. The advance was continued on the road to Brouvelieures for about five hundred yards by Companies "K" and "L".

The Second Battalion commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro moved at 1700 from its forward assembly area due south, then east and north-east around the Montagne de Buemont, crossed the two roads up from Bruyeres and occupied the hill of Point-hare against little opposition at 1915. Captain Frank L. Williams of Company "E" was wounded and evacuated and Captain Wayland G. Holt took over command of the company.

The Red Battalion engaged in the stiffest fighting of the day. All companies were committed and close-in fighting resulted with the enemy lodged in their bunker positions. Company "C" was met with bazooka, small arms and machine gun fire as well as hand grenades. During the night of 20-21 October Company "A" and the Regimental Battle Patrol cleared the east-west road between the two road junctions north of Bruyeres.

At 0800, 21 October, the White and Blue Battalions continued the assault to the east for Vervezelle. Company "E" moved southeast from Hill Point-hare to the road, while Company "G" commanded by First Lieutenant William H. McGuire moved straight east for the road. Company "F" was in battalion reserve. Heavy concentrations of enemy mortar and artillery fire were received as the White Battalion advanced forward. At 1130 Company "E" held one-third of Vervezelle. Captain Wayland G. Holt was seriously wounded and Captain George R. Ellis assumed command of "Easy" Company.

The attack of the Blue Battalion was launched by "Item" and "Love" Companies and at 1130 Company "L" held two houses in Vervezelle as the two assault companies engaged in a fire fight and received enemy tank fire. Company "K" was relieved near the road junction



Pfc Bernard J. Gallagher, of 2d Bn. Hq. Co., was killed in action on 20 October 1944.

by elements of the 15th Infantry at 1130 and rejoined the battalion. The enemy laid a smoke screen before the Third Battalion's left front then counter-attacked Company "L". Seven battalions of friendly artillery fired TOT⁶⁰ concentrations of three rounds per gun. The enemy counter-attack was beaten off.

The battle for Vervezelle continued and at 1305 Company "E" was in complete possession of the town. Company "G" followed by Company "F" pushed beyond the town to the northeast against small arms and machine gun opposition.

The Red Battalion moved to the left and abreast of the Blue Battalion, northwest of Vervezelle, and at 1430 the two battalions advanced behind a smoke screen for Domfaing. The advance was made rapidly against little opposition. Enemy in Domfaing were caught completely by surprise as Blue Battalion forces entered at 1515 to find enemy tanks still there. The tanks were forced to

withdraw but an enemy 105mm gun with its prime mover, plenty of ammunition and one hundred seventy-five prisoners were captured.

The First Battalion advanced on the left of the Third Battalion against small arms and machine gun resistance and cut both the railroad and highway northwest of Domfaing. A stiff fight was had with the enemy for the Neuf Moulin road junction and the road leading up La Mortagne River Valley, during the morning of 22 October 1944.

Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst of "Charlie" Company led a six-man rifle squad, supported by a tank and a tank destroyer, in occupying and holding the vital road junction against successive enemy attacks in platoon strength. Advancing beyond his roadblock alone, he encountered nine of the enemy and forced their surrender. Then, in the company of another member of his squad, Staff Sergeant Ernst went into the woods in search of more Germans, fired on a group of three enemy soldiers, captured one and forced the others to withdraw. As he was interrogating his prisoner, a German force of about fifteen men fired from inside the woods and wounded his comrade. Staff Sergeant Ernst ordered the captured German to attend to his companion, while he engaged the enemy with sub-machine gun fire. A rifle grenade exploded within a yard of him which inflicted multiple wounds on his right leg, arm and side and knocked him unconscious. Recovering a moment later, Staff Sergeant Ernst saw that the enemy had closed within fifty yards of him and was concentrating small arms fire on his position. As his sub-machine gun was practically out of ammunition, he seized a carbine from his wounded comrade and fought off the German force, steadily driving them back into the woods. Then, dragging his wounded comrade back through intense machine gun cross-fire to the roadblock, he took up a position beside the friendly tank to direct fire on two enemy machine guns 100 yards distant. When both the tank officer and assistant driver were wounded by the withering enemy fire, Staff Sergeant Ernst remained in his exposed position for over an hour, directing the fire fight. Only when all enemy fire had been silenced did he consent to be evacuated. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Ernst was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶¹

The Second Battalion left Company "G" in place at 0500 and moved the rest of the troops to the high ground northeast of Domfaing. Companies "E" and "F" closed into the area at 0730 and established a block east of the town.

The 442nd Infantry on the right flank moved up for Belmont. The Blue Battalion continued the advance on 22 October 1944 in the face of stubborn enemy resistance and reached the high ground in the vicinity of Amberfosse having by-passed three enemy tanks and two artillery pieces on the St. Die road.

In the meantime the Red Battalion troops secured the important road junction of Neuf Moulin, then advanced on the right of the St. Die road.

At 0400, 23 October 1944, the Second Battalion moved to the Neuf Moulin road junction then northeast on the right side of the St. Die road and passed through the First Battalion. The First Battalion then assembled, moved south and east on the right flank of the Third Battalion and advanced east through wooded, rugged terrain for Erival.

The advance of the three battalions on the south side of La Mortagne River Valley was rapid in spite of the

⁶⁰ Time on target.

⁶¹ For authority see GO 55, Hq. 7th Army, 17 Feb. 1945.

difficult terrain covered by dense forests. Contact was made with the enemy's 201st Mountain Battalion, a fresh combat unit of well equipped Austrian mountaineers. The new unit was thrown before a tough, aggressive adversary, for before it could get set and dug in, the veteran Seventh Infantry completely smashed it, and ended its combat days.



Two of 14 "Cotton Balers" killed in action on 22 October 1944 were, left to right: 1 Lt. Joe C. Albritton, Co. "B", and S/Sgt. Donald L. Young, Co. "K".

The White Battalion fought its way to the first ridge east of Amberfosse and south of Chevin Fosse, by-passing an enemy tank and rocket gun on the valley road. Small arms and machine gun resistance was encountered and the troops advanced to the second ridge overlooking the first valley which runs northwest to join La Mortagne Valley. A heavy preparation by three battalions of artillery covered the movements of the lead elements which crossed the valley road near Halley and pushed on to the northeast. Many enemy elements were by-passed while others were engaged in sharp fights. By midnight 23-24 October all of the Second Battalion had crossed the little valley near Halley.

Near Amberfosse, Technical Sergeant Leonard Lewis of Company "L" exposed himself to point-black fire and captured an enemy sniper. He then dashed fifty yards through a hail of machine gun and small arms bullets to fearlessly lead the assault on a formidable enemy strong-point. During the engagement he wounded a German captain and pursued him for 200 yards as enemy snipers tried to kill him with their fire. He caught and overpowered the enemy officer and forced him to order the surrender of the strongpoint. By his extraordinary heroism he eliminated all hostile resistance in the company sector and accounted for 23 prisoners of war. He was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶²

Meanwhile the Blue Battalion forces advanced up the right side of La Mortagne River Valley from Amberfosse against small arms and machine gun fire. During the night the rifle companies penetrated almost into Mailleufaing, where at midnight four enemy tanks and an enemy force were reported located.

The Red Battalion fought its way nearly to Erival during the afternoon and night of 23 October with its supply of ammunition running dangerously low. During the night the Regimental Command Post received a heavy shelling from enemy artillery and Nebelwerfer fire.

When dawn came on 24 October the Second Battalion found itself surrounded by enemy groups which had been by-passed during the night. Fierce battles ensued. In the meantime the Blue Battalion commander, Major Rathbun, sent Company "L" under Captain Ralph J. Yates into the attack at 0545 and followed with Company "I", under the command of Captain Edward J. Just, fifteen minutes later. The Companies received tank fire up the little valley from Halley and down La Mortagne Valley from Les Rouges Eaux. Supported by armor of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and 756th Tank Battalion, "Item" and "Love" Companies moved up under heavy artillery concentrations and at 1030 captured the little village of Mailleufaing. Company "L" moved southeast toward Halley while "I" Company

pushed on and contacted the White Battalion forces. Company "K" advanced on the left of Company "I" as heavy mortar fire was received and "Item" and "King" Companies engaged in heavy small arms fights. Captain George W. Lauderdale was wounded and First Lieutenant Vladimir Dostal then First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne assumed command of Company "K".

The night of 24-25 October 1944 was another hectic night for the Second Battalion. Enemy groups infiltrated into the battalion's positions and intermingled with the "Cotton Balers". Close-in fighting occurred throughout the night, even with fist fights. When morning came the battalion reorganized and advanced to the next ridge line in the Bois de Champ. Staff Sergeant Charles H. Bartlett of Second Battalion Headquarters displayed gallantry.⁶³

Company "A" established a road block near Halley as the remainder of the Red Battalion moved to Mailleufaing.

During the morning of 25 October the Regimental Command Post, in Mailleufaing, received an extremely heavy shelling from enemy artillery and Nebelwerfers which destroyed all lines of communication and killed and wounded some of the personnel.

The Blue Battalion drove on that day and pushed "Item" Company across the valley to the Vidonchamp point while "King" Company crossed to the north. The companies engaged the enemy in small arms and machine gun fights. A smoke shell hit a house with mines in it and caused a big explosion which inflicted twenty-five casualties on Company "I". Engineers were sent to uncover men pinned under the debris. Company "L" remained opposite the Vidonchamp point and in contact with the enemy. Patrols from Company "K" entered Les Rouges Eaux from the northeast and found it clear of enemy.

Company "I" was continuously engaged in fights with enemy trying to come down the valley from the northeast and was reinforced by a platoon from "L" Company.⁶⁴

Company "A" was relieved of its road block by the Regimental Battle Patrol on 25 October. An hour following completion of the relief the Battle Patrol received a small counter-attack, as the White Battalion also was hit, but the enemy was repulsed in both sectors. At 1645 the Battle Patrol received a second attack on its left flank. Company "E" moved to the assistance of the Battle Patrol and the attack was repulsed. Captain William K. Dieleman rejoined the Regiment from a hospital, and



Two of the 29 members of the Regiment who were killed in action during the period 25-28 October 1944 were, 1. to r., 1 Lt. John C. Husing, A.T.Co., and 2 Lt. Albert J. Tetreault, of the Regt'l B.P.

was sent to command the two units which became known as "Task Force Dieleman". The enemy made a more determined attack against the joint force at 1845 but was thrown back for the third time with losses.

That day First Lieutenant John C. Husing of Anti-Tank Company voluntarily organized a group of rifle-

⁶² For authority see GO 600, 7th Army, 1945.

⁶³ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. S/Sgt. Bartlett was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁴ See GO No. 13, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan. '45. Cpl. W. T. Relyea, Co. "M", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

men from his platoon in an effort to relieve pressure against the patrol. He displayed gallantry but was killed in the action.⁶⁵

The Red Battalion crossed the La Mortagne Valley with its foot troops in the morning of 25 October and attacked to the northeast. Motor transportation of the battalion moved back to Brouvelieures then north to the first secondary road branching off to the east and moved to the road north out of Les Rouges Eaux. Companies "A" and "B" advanced against scattered resistance and seized Hill 513 where the First Battalion spent the night of 25-26 October 1944.

Company "I" continued its hard battle with the stubborn enemy 26 October while Company "K" moved northeast with intentions of recrossing the valley at Tempoix and enveloping the force battling "Item" Company. Heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire was received during the day. Company "L" was heavily engaged and the battalion made little progress that day.

The Red Battalion continued advancing at 0730, 26 October 1944 with "Able" and "Baker" Companies abreast and encountered only light opposition as Hill 536 was taken at 0950. Moving on for the high ground to the northeast the battalion was stopped at 1100 due to enemy fire coming from the northwest. The advance was continued however at 1250 and the battalion turned

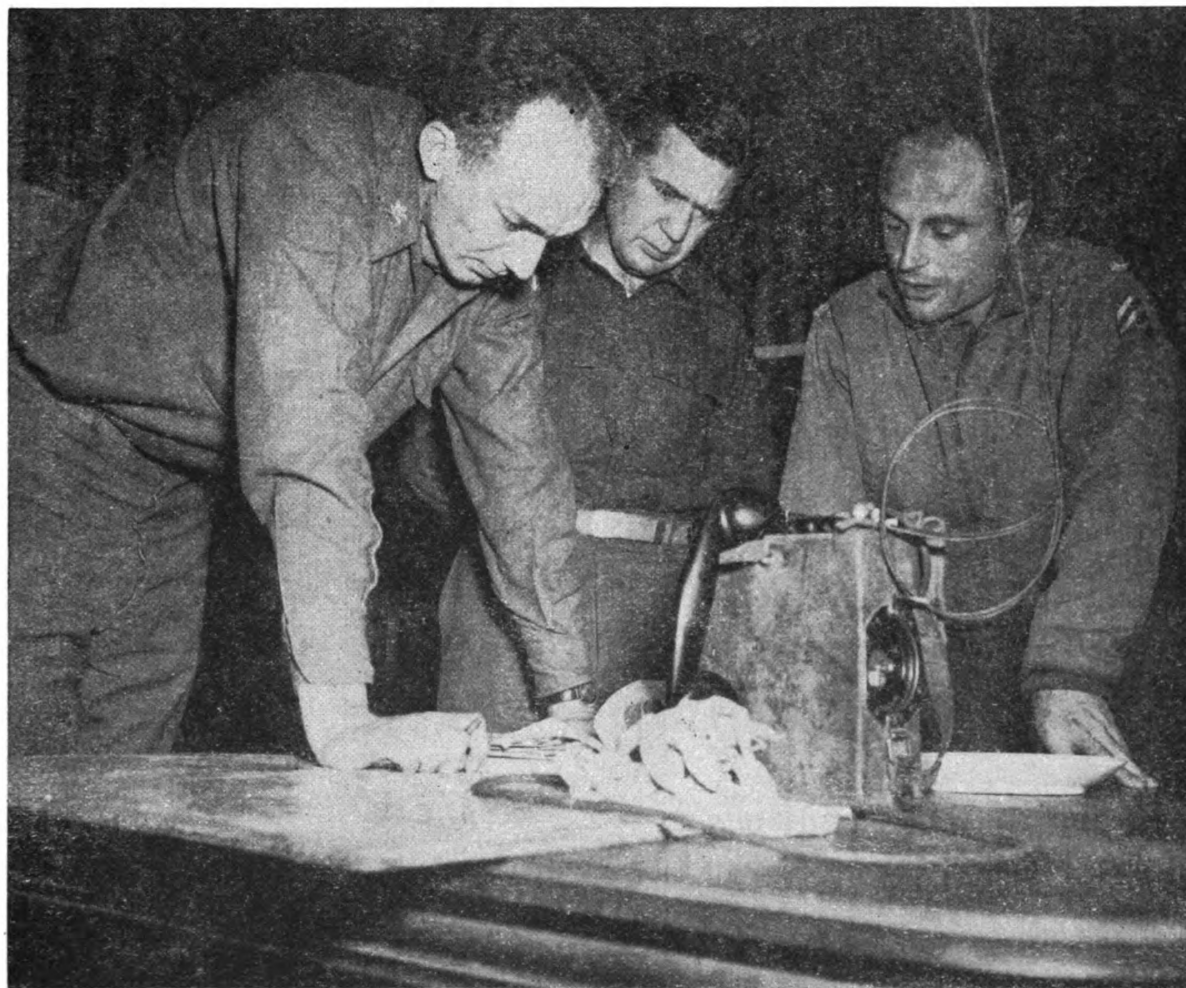
east, cleaned out resistance on the right flank, crossed the north-south road and turned south.⁶⁶

The Second Battalion moved Companies "F" and "G" to Hill 585 as the Battle Patrol and Company "E" continued to block in the vicinity of Halley on 26 October. The Third Battalion continued fire fights with the stubborn enemy and made little progress.

On 27 October a volkswagon bearing two German majors and a captain, from enemy administrative posts in Colmar, and their chauffeur, due to ignorance of the situation, was driven down the road toward Les Rouges Eaux and promptly ran into a bazooka round discharged by an alert Company "I" team. Major Eisenhart, subsequently identified as a G-1 staff officer of the German 16th Division, the captain and chauffeur, were killed but Major Karl Gehring was uninjured though promptly captured. He stated that the party thought fighting was still confined to Bruyeres and that they wanted to visit an old friend in Les Rouges Eaux, which illustrates that also in the German army, administrative and rear echelon

⁶⁵ GO No. 265, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Nov. '44. 1 Lt. Husing was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁶ See GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. 1 Lt. A. S. Jaffe, Co. "B", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



Colonel Harrell, center, flanked by Lt. Col. Izenour, left, and Maj. Duncan, right, discuss the tactical situation as they look at the situation map in the Regimental War Room in Maillefaing, France, during late October 1944.

personnel were quite ignorant of actual front line conditions and locations.

The First Battalion was in continuous contact with the enemy on 28 October 1944 and drove to the west edge of the little town of Blanchefontaine during the morning. At 1745 Company "A" had overcome all resistance in the town and captured many prisoners. Anti-Tank Company Mine Platoon relieved Company "E" and the Battle Patrol of their road blocks near Erival.

The Second Battalion engaged the enemy in small arms and machine gun fights the same day and advanced from Hill 585 to the valley of Rouges Eaux where Company "F" was placed in position and Companies "G" and "E" pushed across the valley to Loge de Tempoix, then straight north for Blanchefontaine. The Third Battalion fought heavy fights with the enemy throughout the day. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol after being relieved of its block near Erival moved to coordinate an attack with Company "K", which was launched at 0820. Strong resistance was encountered on the way to Hill 536. Company "I" fought a small arms and machine gun fight with enemy behind a rock ledge and wall in the vicinity of Vidonchamp. Late in the afternoon "King" Company and the Battle Patrol engaged "Kamerad" yelling Germans in a bitter struggle. Second Lieutenant Albert J. Tetreault of the Battle Patrol was killed in action.

When his platoon's advance up the steep slopes of a boulder and pine covered mountainside was halted by withering machine gun and small arms fire from an enemy force dug in around the crest, Private Macario J. Gallardo of Company "L" worked his way forward alone to within ten yards of a German machine gun position. While tracers ricocheted off the rocks he used for protection, Private Gallardo hurled two hand grenades into the hostile gun pit, silenced the weapon and killed both of the crew. Jumping into the emplacement, he engaged a second German machine gun with his M-1 rifle at fifteen yards range. Unable to destroy the enemy by flat trajectory fire, he called back for more grenades. His comrades lobbed hand grenades into his position. He then threw two grenades, and knocked out both the machine gun and its crew. As he inserted a clip in his M-1 rifle and aimed at a third enemy machine gun position, he was killed by sniper fire. For his extraordinary heroism in action he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁶⁷

During the night of 28-29 October enemy infiltrated between the Battle Patrol and Company "K" and a heavy fight was fought during the following morning. Companies "I" and "L" pushed off in the attack at 0615 on 29 October, overcame strong enemy resistance and captured thirty-one enemy including one officer and two non-commissioned officers.⁶⁸

A patrol from Company "G" entered Blanchefontaine the morning of 29 October, and contacted Company "A". The Red Battalion continued mopping-up operations.

The successful maneuvering of the battalions by Colonel Harrell during the period 22-29 October 1944 had resulted in the pocketing of a large number of enemy. Seven hundred thirty Germans had been taken prisoners and many killed.

Some had tried to break out of the trap but failed. One of the prisoners taken was Captain Schoeszler of 2bv, 291st Mountain Troops. His battalion attempted to fight its way out of the trap, made by the Seventh Infantry battalions, and to retreat to Le Haute Jacques. The remnants of his battalion had been encircled for five days,

during which time no rations or ammunition came through. The decision to attempt a breakthrough was made by the captain himself in spite of orders to hold to the end. The captain's ultimate objective was to gain the high ground of Bois de la Magdeleine, west of St. Die, but that was wishful thinking.

THE BATTLE OF LE HAUTE JACQUES 30 OCTOBER-4 NOVEMBER 1944

At 0800, 30 October, the First Battalion attacked due east from Blanchefontaine. During the morning moderate resistance was encountered and the little group of houses at Grange Fisson overrun. The advance was continued along the St. Die road against stronger resistance consisting of machine gun, mortar and small arms fire until at 1745, Company "A", the lead company, was halted 300 yards short of Le Haute Jacques, which was the battalion objective.

The Second Battalion attacked to the southeast at 0815, 30 October, and encountered only scattered resistance until it reached the vicinity of its objective, Hill 652. Companies "E" and "G" engaged enemy in a fire fight throughout the afternoon.⁶⁹

The Third Battalion attacked southeast down Rouge Eaux valley at 1430. Company "K", proceeding on the north side, seized Hill 491 and Company "L" on the south side advanced about 500 yards further, when at 1655 it was suddenly stopped by heavy fire from enemy tanks, flakwagons and machine guns in the vicinity of Marmomossa where the enemy had a strong road block.⁷⁰ The valley road and vicinity was found to be heavily mined.



Two of eight "Cotton Balers" killed in action on 30 October 1944 were: 1. to r., Sgt. Beryl E. McFarland, and Pfc. John R. Seltzer, both of Co. "E".

0900 near the big bend in the road about 300 yards short of the objective. Company "B" was held in reserve

On 31 October all battalions of the Regiment continued the attack and bitter battles were fought on all fronts as progress was extremely slow against the determined, well entrenched enemy.

The First Battalion resumed the attack for Le Haute Jacques, and its important crossroads, but was halted at

⁶⁷ For authority see GO 77, Hq. 7th Army, 3 Mar. 1945.

⁶⁸ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. Pfc R. L. Sternberg, Co. "I", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁹ See GO No. 47, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 Feb. '45. Sgt. B. E. McFarland, killed in the action, was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁰ See GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pfc O. L. Rains, Co. "L", was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

while Company "A" attacked north under mortar preparations and Company "C" attacked due east. The companies moved slowly against heavy automatic weapons and mortar fire. Among the personnel who were wounded and evacuated that day was Major Benjamin C. Boyd, the commanding officer of the First Battalion. Captain Kenneth W. Wallace assumed command of the Red Battalion troops.

Companies "E" and "G" continued the Second Battalion's fight for Hill 652 during the morning and were held off by stubborn, determined, well-entrenched enemy. At 1400 Company "E" received orders to renew the attack. With the First Platoon commanded by First Lieutenant James F. Powell on the left guiding on the road which leads to Le Haute Jacques, and the Third Platoon under Second Lieutenant Ralph C. Street on the right, the company launched an attack. The Second Platoon commanded by Second Lieutenant James A. Crough took up a position behind the Third Platoon in order to secure the company's open right flank. The assaulting platoons were confronted with extremely heavy automatic fire delivered by an estimated fifty German soldiers supported by approximately seven machine guns. The resistance was unusually stubborn, in many cases fanatical. Individual soldiers were compelled to creep up to the edge of foxholes and fire into them. A group of men from the First Platoon, led by Staff Sergeant Edward R. Havrila, assaulted three enemy dugouts with grenades.

Upon breaching the first enemy line, men of "Easy" Company found other positions behind it, a third line beyond, and still others extending to the enemy's rear for a depth of approximately nine hundred yards. Enemy dugouts were approximately four feet deep, well-camouflaged and covered with logs for overhead cover. The proportion of machine guns, and other automatic weapons, to rifles employed by the enemy was unusually high and gave him tremendous fire-power.

By advancing from the cover of one thick tree to another "Easy" Company was able to close with the enemy and eject him from successive strongpoints, usually with hand and rifle grenades. Five Germans were killed in their holes and four others wounded and captured. The remainder withdrew under the steady pressure. After an hour and a half of continuous fighting, "Easy" Company succeeded in cleaning the way leading to the objective.

Without pausing to reorganize the assault platoons continued abreast up a small bare hill that lay directly in front of Hill 652. From its commanding position on the crest of Hill 652, a platoon of Germans opened fire with three machine guns, five machine pistols and semi-automatic rifles. The First and Third Platoons doggedly inched forward, under the hail of fire, until they reached the forward slope of the small hill where a reorganization was effected. A check of ammunition revealed that the supply was becoming exhausted.

Captain George R. Ellis of Company "E" decided to renew the attack even though supplies were low. The Second Platoon which was best supplied was committed in a flanking movement to the right and was successful in diverting some enemy fire from the other two platoons.

First Lieutenant James F. Powell then led the First and Third Platoons in an attack against the stubborn foe on thickly wooded Hill 652. Placing himself at the head of his men he led them through automatic and small arms fire that barely missed him, into the midst of the enemy positions and routed the Germans with grenade and point-blank fire. Then, despite intense grazing

machine gun fire, he led a continuation of the assault to the crest of Hill 652 which destroyed a second enemy position. Largely, as a result of First Lieutenant Powell's resolute leadership six more of the enemy were killed, twelve captured and thirteen automatic weapons and a small arms dump seized. Hill 652 was at last captured.⁷¹



Major Benjamin C. Boyd commanded the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 15 to 31 October 1944 when he was seriously wounded in action and evacuated.

The Third Battalion attack down Les Rouges Eaux Valley was continued. Company "K" encountered and overcame moderate resistance to push on from Hill 491 to Hill 699 on the north of the valley, but Company "L" encountered strong enemy defenses and stubborn resistance in the valley itself near Marmomossa and on the south side.

While leading his squad in an attack across bare, coverless ground Staff Sergeant George A. Grando of Company "L" encountered withering machine gun cross fire from German positions thirty-five yards to his right front. The men of his squad hit the ground but were unable to find cover. Though Sergeant Edward J. McDermott and Private First Class Frederick E. Hoey were killed in action and five riflemen namely, Private First Class William A. Free, Privates Elmer H. Glenn, Jr., Everett W. Humphrey, Frank T. Patrician and James L. Medlock were wounded, Staff Sergeant Grando grimly continued the fight alone. Kneeling in full view of the enemy he fired his "Tommy" gun at the two German machine gun positions. When his last round of ammunition was spent he crawled five yards through a hail of machine gun and sniper fire to wrench a Browning Automatic Rifle from a dead gunner's grasp. Before he could engage the enemy a burst of machine gun fire struck him. Mortally wounded and with seconds of life left to live, Staff Sergeant Grando fired two magazines of Browning automatic rifle ammunition into the hostile positions.

⁷¹ GO No. 130, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 April '45. 1 Lt. Powell was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On 1 November 1944 the First Battalion continued, for the third day, in attacking for Le Haute Jacques which the enemy clearly intended to defend to the bitter

Among the First Battalion dead was Captain Roy E. Cook of Company "C" who commanded the company



The distance from the companies to the objective varied from 300 to 1000 yards, which sometimes is not considered much, but in this section of the Vosges it amounted to a great deal. The terrain was rugged and mountainous and densely wooded with pines and other evergreens. During the period 30 October to 4 November 1944, inclusive, only one day gave clear, cool weather, that was 1 November. On the other days rain and fog was what the weather man gave out and the "Cotton Balers" came to consider him an ally of the enemy, who

The Second Battalion attacked from the vicinity of Hill 652 at 0850. 1 November 1944 and encountered

⁷² For authority see GO 77, Hq. 7th Army, 3 Mar. 1945.

heavy resistance with intense fire from automatic weapons, mortars, small arms and tanks. The enemy's heavy 120mm mortars thundered continuously throughout the day at ten minute intervals. Tree bursts were numerous and the number of casualties was high. Captain George R. Ellis was wounded and evacuated. First Lieutenant James F. Powell assumed command of Company "E", which with "George" Company, held the forward line of the Second Battalion. At 1330 two platoons of Company "G" were but 150 yards from Le Haute Jacques.

At 1500 the enemy threw a heavy artillery concentration at the Second Battalion forces then followed it with a powerful counter-attack at Company "G". Holding their ground the gallant men of "George" Company repulsed the enemy after a hard, close-in, hand to hand fight.

At 1616 the enemy followed with another counter-attack, but at Company "C" that time. Bitter close-in fighting again ensued. The reserve platoon of "Charlie" Company was committed and finally the enemy was beaten back.

The Blue Battalion which had attacked at 0815 was having another day of heavy fighting. By 0945 "Love" Company, by fighting all the way, had pushed to Marmomossa.⁷³ "King" Company, on Hill 699, was engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. "Item" Company, which had been committed, progressed on the north side of the valley to a position opposite "Love" Company's.

The Red and White Battalions continued their hard struggle for Le Haute Jacques, for the fourth day, on 2 November.

At 0745 Companies "A" and "B" attacked south toward the objective and encountered many anti-personnel mines in the woods which slowed the advance. An enemy road block and heavy machine gun fire was encountered which caused the companies to maneuver.

Companies "E" and "G" for the Second Battalion made a little progress against enemy employing automatic weapons, mortars and small arms but at 1130 Company "G" was hit by a counter-attack that was repulsed after some difficulty.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol relieved Company "F" which in turn relieved Company "C". "Charlie" Company then moved to join its battalion. Following artillery preparations the First and Second Battalions pushed off at 1415 from the north and south in a coordinated attack but failed to make any appreciable gains due to strong, dug-in enemy forces using unusually large numbers of automatic weapons and heavy concentrations of mortar fire.

Company "E" received terrific mortar concentrations at ten to fifteen minute intervals which rocked the men in their positions. Casualties were heavy. The company was being whittled down by the methodical enemy mortar fire. The remnant of the Company headquarters group was placed into the line to fill the gap between the Second Platoon, and Company "G".

As the First and Second Battalions battered away at enemy defenses 2 November, the Third Battalion maintained close contact with the enemy and advanced slowly down the Rouges Eaux Valley. A patrol from Company "L" contacted a patrol from the 442nd Infantry on the south on Hill 617. Company "K" remained on Hill 699 as "Item" and "Love" Companies advanced slowly.

That day Private Ted L. Marsh of the Battle Patrol performed gallantly and singlehandedly knocked out an enemy machine gun.⁷⁴

The Second Battalion of the 141st Infantry commenced relief of the Third Battalion at 1550 which was completed during the night of 2-3 November 1944.



Killed in action during the rough fighting for Le Haute Jacques were: (1) Pfc Glenn O. Vernon, Co. "C"; (2) Capt. Roy E. Cook, Co. "C", and (3) Pvt. Keith E. Glade, Co. "B".

At 0815, 3 November, the First Battalion launched still another attack from the north as Companies "G" and "F" and the First Platoon of Company "E" attacked from the south. The First Battalion troops were stopped abruptly by repeated enemy concentrations from 80 and 120 mm. mortars, "burp" guns and fire of other automatic weapons, as the enemy's supply of ammunition seemed to be limitless. Finally "Charlie" Company penetrated to within 150 yards of the road but was held up by well dug-in enemy. About noontime enemy forces enveloped Company "C" from the rear. A heavy fire fight ensued until 1730 when "Charlie" Company broke out of its encirclement and captured twelve enemy prisoners on the way. The road block in front of Company "B's" position was well covered with fire which prevented Company "A" of the 10th Engineer Battalion from removing it and "Baker" Company failed to bypass it.

Casualties were heavier on 3 November 1944. A total of twenty "Cotton Balers" gave their lives for their country's cause. Twelve of the dead heroes were from the Red Battalion. (Complete list is shown in the Appendix).

Company "G" was subjected to such intense enemy fire that it could make no headway. Among the wounded was First Lieutenant William H. Maguire. First Lieutenant Leonard D. Hanney replaced him as commanding officer of "George" Company.

The First Platoon of Company "E", under the command of Second Lieutenant Bertram D. Trump succeeded in advancing about 200 yards before encountering the lashing fire of four machine guns which was followed by heavy pummeling from enemy 120 mm. mortars. The leader and eighteen members of the platoon were wounded. Technical Sergeant Edward G. Havrila withdrew the platoon back up the slope.

THIRD BATTALION JOINS IN THE FIGHT FOR LE HAUTE JACQUES

Following relief of the Third Battalion by the Second Battalion, 141st Infantry, Companies "I" and "L" assembled in the vicinity of Hill 652 then at 1055, 3 November, attacked to the right of the Second Battalion with "I" Company leading. "Item" Company reached a position about 300 yards southeast of Le Haute Jacques then was held up by machine gun fire from its front and

⁷³ See GO No. 11, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan. '45. 2 Lt. J. J. Skarwecki was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁴ GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pvt. Marsh was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

left flank. The enemy then threw a strong counter-attack at "Item" Company but was repulsed with losses.

At about 1500 hours Staff Sergeant William R. Dezarn led two decimated platoons of Company "A" in three assaults on formidable enemy positions, ringed with machine guns and fronted by a minefield. Advancing alone to within fifty yards of the enemy line, he detonated eleven mines, drawing bursts of machine gun fire after each explosion. Then he directed a rain of artillery and mortar shells on the German positions. Singlehandedly assaulting and destroying a machine gun and its three-man crew with grenades at fifteen yards distance, he endeavored to lead his men through the breach, but was crippled by enemy shell fire. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Dezarn was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Second Lieutenant Earl E. Swanson of Company "F" was gallant while leading his platoon on 3 November. That same day Private Louis D. Gallerani and Private First Class Jacinto M. Garcia, both of Company "D", surprised a group of twelve enemy soldiers attempting to outflank their company's position, killed ten of them and forced the other two to flee.⁷⁵

Throughout the remainder of the day and through the night of 3-4 November the enemy concentrated extremely heavy barrages of heavy mortar and artillery fire on the Seventh Infantry troops and used a considerable number of automatic weapons in keeping the "Cotton Balers" out of Le Haute Jacques, which was then called the "Crossroads of Hell," because it was such a hot spot.

7th INFANTRY LAUNCHES ALL-OUT ATTACK AND CAPTURES LE HAUTE JACQUES, "THE CROSSROADS OF HELL", 4 NOVEMBER 1944

At 0615, 4 November 1944, Colonel Ben Harrell sent the inimitable, incomparable dogfaces of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment into a final, all-out attack for the "Crossroads of Hell". It was the sixth day of the attack

and brought success at last at a great price. All companies but "Love" Company participated in the attack. The Regimental Battle Patrol supported the attack with its .50 calibre machine guns while the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion, Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, and the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, supported the rifle battalions by fire throughout the attack.

In the fog and rain of that bloody day the riflemen of the Seventh Infantry weathered murderous mortar and artillery concentrations, and cutting machine gun bursts, to continue the attack.

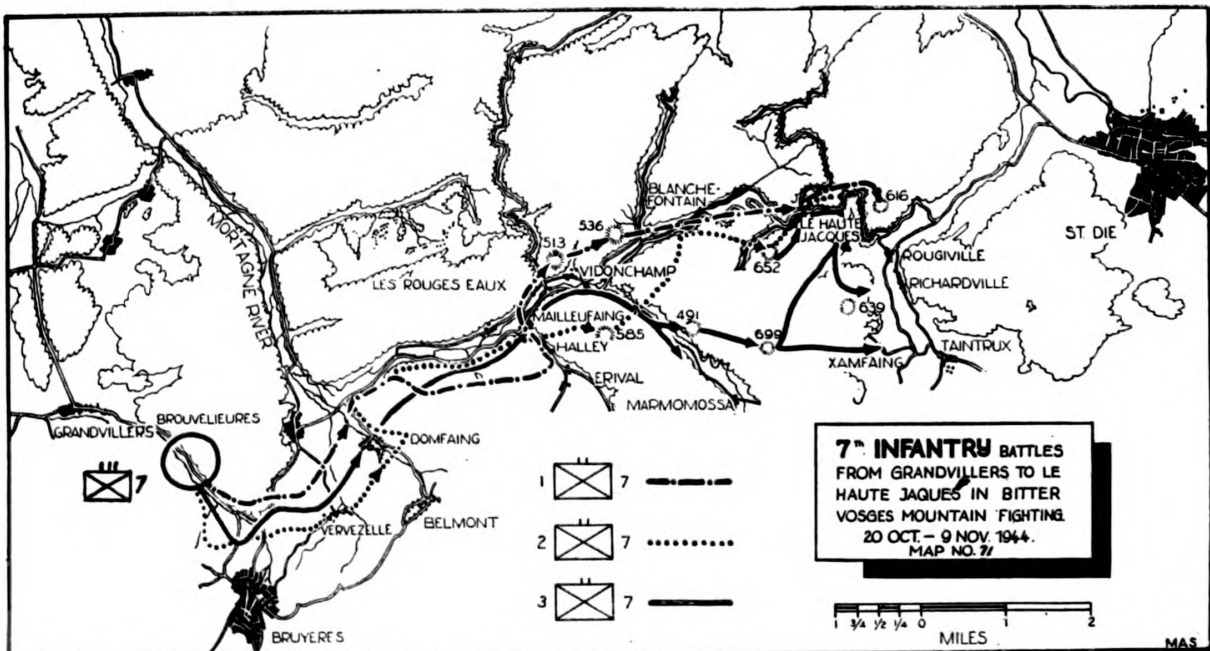
The First Battalion was held up by powerful enemy resistance shortly after jumping off and "Able" Company was hit by a counter-attack.

For the Blue Battalion Company "I" encountered withering fire from four well-placed enemy machine guns and became stopped. Company "K" moved on against stiff resistance.

With the Red Battalion stopped cold and only "King" Company of the Blue Battalion moving slowly, the honors of the day were to go to Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro's battling Second Battalion. Its three rifle companies launched a terrific attack which drove the enemy from his positions.

Company "E" moved out in the attack with the Second Platoon on the left, the Third on the right and the First Platoon in support. The 60mm mortar section followed the First Platoon. Despite intense machine gun and rifle fire from dug-in enemy positions approximately 200 yards to the left, Company "E" forged ahead steadily. First Lieutenant James Powell then pivoted the company to the left on the Second Platoon and it pressed forward. At that time an intense concentration from enemy 120mm mortars hit "Easy" Company's

⁷⁵ GOs No. 40 & 54, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 & 18 Feb. '45. 2 Lt. Swanson, Pfc Garcia & Pvt. Gallerani were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



60mm mortar section, killed two and wounded eight of its members. The rifle platoons also suffered heavy casualties.

Despite the serious loss of its supporting mortars and serious casualties sustained by the rifle platoons, Company "E" did not falter. The First and Third Platoons hacked their way through the foremost enemy positions with hand and rifle grenades and with point-blank small arms fire. However, the enemy refused to give way. From other positions deeper in his line the German forces laid down interlocking bands of automatic fire, making the company pay for every yard of ground it took. The Third Platoon had especially hard fighting, being subjected to fire from its right flank as well as its front. Prisoners captured later stated that two officers had machine guns set up behind the main line of resistance and shot all Germans who attempted to withdraw.

Private Edgar A. Cosson, heavy machine gunner from an attached Company "H" section, intrepidly advanced to an exposed position with free fields of fire and engaged an enemy machine gun at a range of fifty yards. Disregarding mortar shells which exploded all around him and automatic weapons fire which tore through his pack and blanket, he duelled with the German gun for fifteen minutes, finally silencing and killing its three-man crew. He then became the primary target of other enemy fire so intense that his ammunition bearers were unable to crawl to his gun with their boxes. Private Cosson ignored sniper fire from German positions on a slope of the wooded hill, to engage a second machine gun. Fighting alone and in an exposed position, Private Cosson killed the three members of the second gun crew and silenced their weapon. As friendly riflemen attacked remaining German positions, he turned his deadly fire on supporting enemy elements and killed approximately ten more Germans. For his extraordinary heroism Private Cosson was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷⁶

The Third Platoon of Company "E" shifted its fire towards the right. Second Lieutenant James A. Crough courageously led the platoon in an assault that breached the stubborn enemy defenses in the heavily wooded terrain guarding the "Crossroads of Hell". When intense enemy mortar fire disorganized his men, he moved freely through the concentration of shells that burst close to him, reorganized the platoon and led it forward again. Exposed to point-blank machine pistol and other small arms fire, Second Lieutenant Crough aggressively brought his men into close contact with the enemy. Two enemy machine guns were knocked out, six Germans killed, twelve captured and remaining enemy troops were forced to flee in disorder. One squad immediately moved to the crest of high ground and pursued the enemy with fire. The Third Platoon then quickly reorganized and resumed its original direction of attack.

Company "E" completely unhinged the enemy's main line of resistance. The Second Platoon penetrated deeper and deeper into the enemy's system of defense, rolling back the north-south anchor of the line. Rapidly gaining momentum, the Second Platoon overran several machine gun positions, killed five and captured twenty-six Germans in one group.

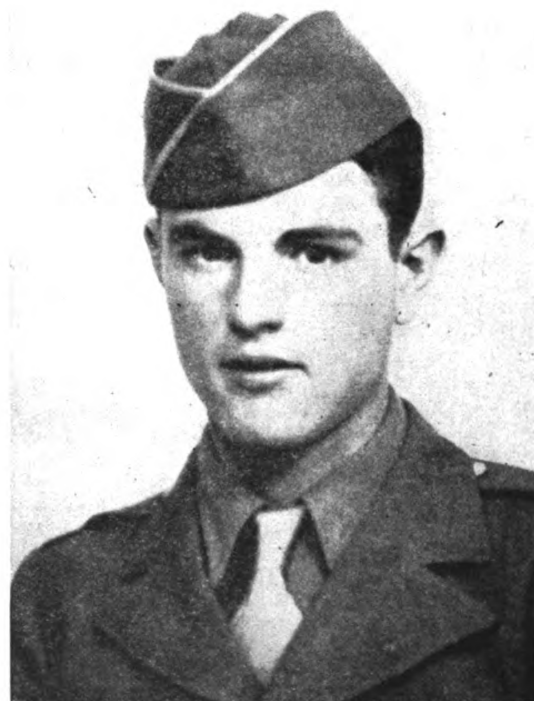
Every yard of ground was gained only by the most resolute fighting, on more than one occasion both assault platoons were virtually surrounded. However, rather than slow the advance, they pressed forward leaving behind small pockets of resistance which were immediately destroyed by the First Platoon and Company Headquarters.

The enemy displayed utter ruthlessness and desperate determination to hold his ground by placing a concen-

tration of 120mm mortar fire where elements of both sides were locked together in a struggle to the finish. At a heavy cost, Company "E" continued its relentless assault and thrust its way to the rear of a trench from which enemy troops were standing off Company "G". Cut off by "Easy" Company's assault, several of the enemy attempted to escape from the trench and were either killed or captured by the First Platoon. The rest later surrendered to Company "G".

After two and a half hours of hand-to-hand fighting, Company "E" wrested 500 yards of bitterly defended terrain from the enemy and approached a secondary road barely 25 yards short of the strategic road junction at Le Haute Jacques. While the Third Platoon moved into position along the secondary road, the Second Platoon drove through to the "Crossroads of Hell" with such speed that a crew manning a 77mm anti-tank gun was forced to abandon the weapon.

Setting up its attached heavy machine guns from Company "H" on the wooded slope leading to the road, the Second Platoon opened fire on an enemy mortar position which was dug-in behind a fallen tree approximately three hundred yards to the right front. In the meantime Private First Class John C. Nutter and Private First Class Tony Bellèini, who was killed in the action, seized an abandoned enemy machine gun and utilized the weapon to fire at another enemy machine gun in position behind a house across the road. The employment of the enemy weapon was a dire necessity. Practically every Browning automatic rifle in the company was out of ammunition and the riflemen had so little left that they were firing enemy rifles and ammunition.



Pfc Juland A. Aaron, of Co. "I", age 19 years, 6 months, 20 days, died on 8 November, of wounds he had received in action on 20 October 1944. He was recommended for a posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross for actions performed on 15-16 August 1944.

⁷⁶ For authority see GO 86, Hq. 7th Army, 9 Mar. 1945.

"G". At the end of the day the Second Battalion forces engaged enemy in a heavy fire fight as Companies "I" and "K", after weathering heavy enemy mortar concentrations, overcame machine gun and small arms resistance to advance toward the first big road bend east of Le Haute Jacques.

At 0830, 5 November, the First and Second Battalions and Company "K" attacked to the east. "King" Company reached the first big bend east of Le Haute Jacques and contacted the Second Battalion forces. The First Battalion advanced against light resistance and the Second Battalion received light mortar fire. White Battalion forces crossed the road where it runs north and south. Red Battalion forces continued to advance against little opposition until at noontime "Able" Company contacted strong enemy forces in the vicinity of Hill 616, but fought its way to the top at 1515. "Charlie" and "Baker" Companies advanced south down the nose of Hill 616. The Third Battalion then started moving south with "Love" Company going for Hill 699. "Item" Company went to the vicinity of La Sc. Fouriette and directed mortar and artillery fire on Rougiville. Company "K" passed through Company "I" and entered the arm of the Taintrux Valley northwest of Rougiville, engaged enemy in a fight and captured sixteen of them. "Love" Company reached Hill 699 and in the afternoon moved due east.⁸⁰

The Regimental Battle Patrol became attached to the First Battalion and in the morning of the 6th, with "Charlie" Company, became engaged with enemy near the big sharp road bend south of Hill 616.⁸¹

The Third Battalion advanced towards its objectives and encountered small arms and machine gun fire. Hills 639 and 672 were occupied. On 8 November, Company "L" seized and occupied Xamfaing as Company "K" established an outpost line of resistance at the edge of the woods west of Richardville. Company "C" occupied

[illegible]

⁷⁷ For authority see GO 21, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 30 Mar. 1945.

⁷⁸ GOs No. 13, 54 & 171, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan., 18 Feb. & 22 May '45. 1 Lt. Smitherman, 2 Lt. Crough & Pvt. Keller were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁹ GOs No. 11, 295, 296, 299, 306, 326, 339 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 Dec. '44 & 11 Jan., 9, 15 & 20 Aug., 5, 17 & 25 Sept. '45. Lt. Col. Thobro, Maj. Boyd, Capt. Rachiele, 2 Lt. Leicht, S/Sgt. Foutty, Pfc's Driscoll, Quattrochi & Wilk & Pvts Huber & Walters were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁰ See GO No. 22, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 22 Jan. '45. Pvt. G. T. Hungerford, M.D., was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸¹ See GOs No. 198 & 249, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 June & 10 July '45. Sgt. E. Truax, B.P., & Pfc J. F. Kreis, Co. "D", were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Companies "I" and "K" continued engaging enemy in a machine gun and small arms battle as the First and Second Battalions pushed their attacks.

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an enemy road block south of Hill 616. Company "A" patrolled to the east and Company "B" relieved Company "I".

With the Second Battalion in reserve, the First and Third Battalions tied-in with one another to form a Regimental line. Men of Company "A" 10th Engineers under the command of First Lieutenant Cohagan cleared the road east from Le Haute Jacques to the first road junction, of fallen trees and mines. The Regimental Battle Patrol with sections of tanks and tank destroyers established a road block at the road junction. First Lieutenant Cohagan and a companion led members of the Battle Patrol into Rougville.

During the period 4-9 November 1944 many small bitter actions were fought in the dense forests east of Le Haute Jacques. First Lieutenant George R. Townsend of Company "K", Private First Class Herman Johnson of Company "A", Private First Class George H. Willingham of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Private Clifford L. Hubbs of Company "E" and Private Eugene C. Wonderling of Company "G" proved themselves to be combat leaders.⁸²

The Seventh Infantry (reinforced) was completely relieved on position during the night of 9-10 November 1944 by the 409th Infantry of the 103rd Infantry Division, fresh from the United States. The relief was not made without incident as the new organization suffered seven casualties. Two men were killed and three

wounded from exploding Schu mines while two were wounded by enemy artillery.

Following completion of the relief, the Seventh Infantry moved by vehicles to assembly areas in the vicinity of Fremifontaine and Pierrepont, France, and closed in to the new areas without incident the morning of 10 November 1944.

The period of offensive combat from 20 October to 10 November 1944 in the Vosges Mountains was the stiffest the Regiment had engaged in in France up to that time. An important part of La Mortagne River Valley and its tributaries had been wrested from the enemy. About ten miles of rugged terrain covered by dense forests had been traversed over in the face of the most determined resistance. The "Cotton Balers" had fought gallantly and courageously in some of the roughest fighting of the French campaigns; 1086 Germans had been processed through the Regimental prisoner of war cage while numerous others were evacuated through medical channels. A great many of the enemy had been killed, much equipment destroyed and captured. The Regiment suffered its losses in obtaining its objectives; 148 "Cotton Balers" sacrificed their lives while 822 were wounded and evacuated.

⁸² GOs No. 35, 282, 299, 306 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Feb., 1, 15 & 20 Aug. & 4 Oct. '45, 1 Lt. Townsend, Pfc Johnson & Willingham, Pvts. Hubbs & Wonderling were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

CHAPTER III

Crossing of the Meurthe and the Push to the Rhine

The first three days in the new assembly area were spent in rest and rehabilitation by personnel of the Regiment, and in the care and reconditioning of equipment. Then followed six days devoted to extensive training which stressed the technique of river crossings by day and night. Practical work was conducted in the vicinity of Docelles, France. Physical conditioning was stressed and small unit problems for the squad, platoon and company were held. Each battalion conducted an attack problem and devoted much time to combat formations in wooded terrain. Heavy snow fell during the period and blanketed the countryside.

It was known by the veterans that but a short time remained before the "Cotton Baler" Regiment would take up again its foremost task of chasing and killing Kraut.

The Regimental Commander and his staff were oriented by Third Division Headquarters on the scope of future actions by the American Seventh Army. The plan called for VI Corps to continue its advance on the axis St. Die-Strasbourg, while the XV Corps on the left was to capture Sarrebourg, force the Saverne Gap and prepare to exploit east of the Vosges. The ultimate Seventh Army action was to capture Strasbourg and destroy the enemy west of the Rhine River in its zone.

Four Infantry divisions comprised the VI Corps, namely, the Third, 36th, 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, the last two of which were inexperienced and fresh from the United States.

The 30th Infantry Regiment had been taken out of the line, as well as the Seventh, and underwent a similar period of rehabilitation and training. The 15th Infantry remained in the line, however, to continue the Third Infantry Division's unbroken string of combat days since invasion day in Southern France. The "Can Do's" held a line on the west side of the Meurthe River from the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe north to the vicinity of Etival-Claire-fontaine.

Maneuver of VI Corps called for lead-off attacks by the 100th Infantry Division and the 36th Infantry Division on the flanks. The "Century" Division on the north directed its efforts southeast from Baccarat, for the heights immediately north of Raon L'Etape, while the "Texan" Division directed its efforts on the south flank, to the east and southeast. The 103rd, or "Cactus", Division which relieved the Seventh and 30th Infantry Regiments, held the high ground west of St. Die and the Meurthe River, and prepared to follow an attack by the number one assault division in the Seventh United States Army, the "Rock of the Marne" Division, to seize a bridgehead across the Meurthe River, which action was slated to come off by 20 November 1944.

PLANS FOR CROSSING THE MEURTHE RIVER

While the 7th and 30th Infantries trained intensively and the 15th Infantry remained on the line, Third Division Headquarters developed plans for a night crossing of the swollen Meurthe River.

The "Rock of the Marne" Division planned to employ the maximum of fire preparation and power to force a crossing of the Meurthe in its zone on the night of D-1/D-Day, to rapidly establish a bridgehead on phase line "Face," to advance aggressively with the utmost speed, and seize the high ground northeast of St. Die and phase line "Soldier", and be prepared for further aggressive action.⁸³

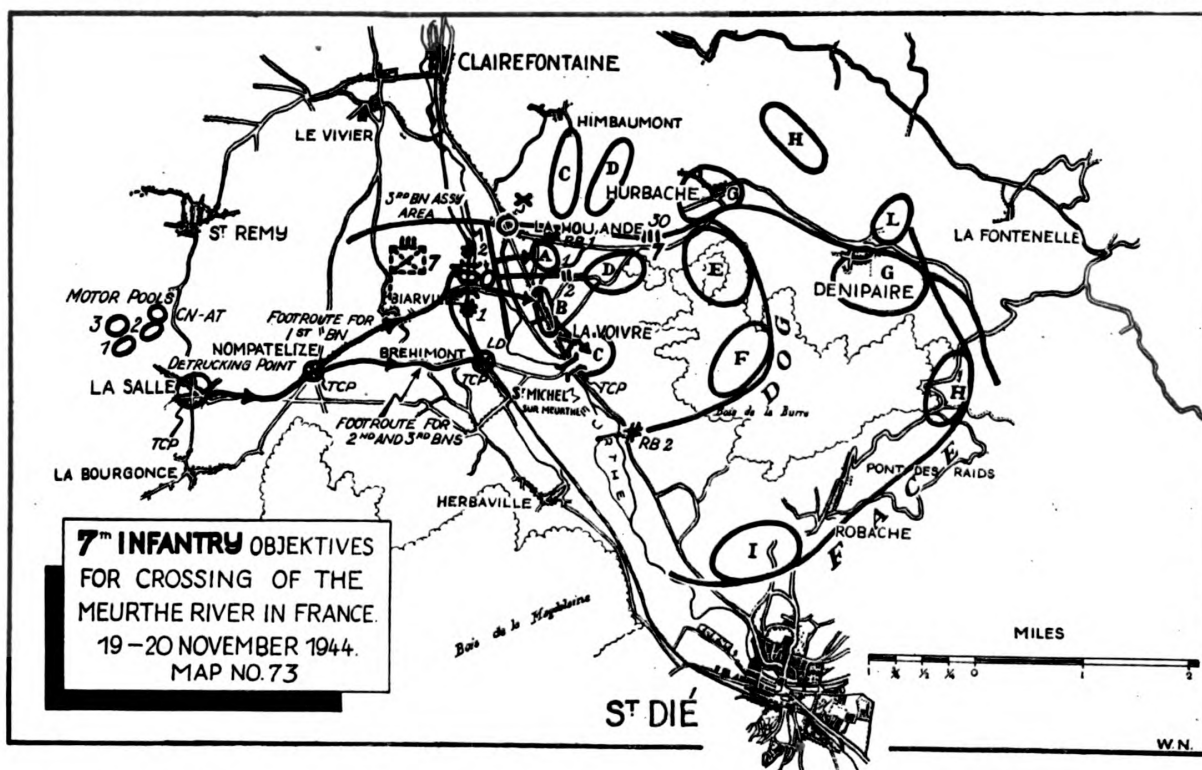
It is a very significant fact that for all amphibious assault operations against hostile shores or across defended river lines and for other assault operations the Third Infantry Division in World War II had always employed the web-footed "Cotton Baler", or "7th Light Foot" Infantry Regiment. In the assault against French Morocco it was the Seventh and 30th Infantry in the assault wave. For the invasion of Sicily all three regiments threw in an assault battalion. To cross the swollen Volturno in southern Italy the 7th Infantry made the main assault for the "Rock of the Marne" Division with the 15th Infantry on its right and the 30th Infantry in reserve. For the Anzio landing the Third Infantry Division again employed elements of all three regiments in the assault, as it had for Sicily. In breaking out of the Anzio Beachhead the Seventh Infantry was in the center and captured Cisterna-di-Littoria. In the invasion of Southern France the Division teamed the 15th Infantry with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment and held the 30th Infantry in reserve once again. And in November 1944 as the Third Division planned to force a crossing of the Meurthe River, it was a foregone conclusion that the Seventh Infantry would get the nod.

prepared on Division order to continue, to seize phase line "Soldier". The Seventh Infantry was to protect the Division's right and hold the St. Michel bridge site with appropriate forces until relieved by Division order, while the 30th Infantry had a similar mission on the left at the Clairefontaine bridge site.

The 15th Infantry was to screen the assembly of the assault regiments and secure a line of departure for the crossing, then employ all its organic and attached weapons in direct support of the crossing. On Division order the "Dragon" Regiment was to cross the Meurthe River in the zone of either assault regiment prepared to pass through.

The Third Infantry Division Battle Patrol with a forward observation party provided by the Division Artillery was to cross the Meurthe River and in conjunction with the Seventh Infantry seize and hold the St. Michel bridge site. When contact was to be established the patrol would become attached to the Seventh Infantry.

The mission of Third Division Artillery was to fire a preparation for thirty minutes prior to H-Hour on vital targets selected by the commanding officers of the assault regiments, on known and suspected enemy gun locations and communications centers. Close support was to be rendered to the Infantry by massed fires on successive objectives and targets of opportunity, with particular attention to the exposed flanks and the Hurbache Valley. Enemy observation and positions were to be smoked on call. The artillery was to be prepared to mark with smoke, on call, targets to be identified for fighter



Plans for the Meurthe River Crossing called for the 7th and 30th Infantry to assemble under cover of darkness in forward areas by H-2 then cross the Meurthe in assigned zones with principal Infantry elements at H-Hour and seize objectives indicated on phase line "Dog". The units were then to coordinate rapidly, continue the advance, seize phase line "Face" and be

bombers. The anti-aircraft half tracks of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion were to be employed by the Artillery to support the crossing by direct fire from dug-in positions.

⁸³ O. I. No. 94, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Brouvelieures, France, 8 Nov. 1944.

The 10th Engineer Combat Battalion in conjunction with the First Battalion, 36th Engineer Combat Battalion, was to operate assault rubber boats at the crossing sites for the Infantry. One Infantry foot bridge per assault battalion and one light assault bridge per assault Infantry combat team, at or near the assault crossing sites, were to be constructed. Dozers were to be provided near the assault crossing sites to assist in crossing water-proofed armored vehicles. Following crossing operations the Engineers were to support the attack with particular attention to mine and booby trap removal, bridge construction and road maintenance in the Division zone.

The 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were ordered to assist the assault Infantry regiments in reconnaissance for crossing sites for armor, and for suitable routes in the zone of advance. The armor was to be placed in hull-down positions to support the Infantry crossings by direct fire.

The 3rd Chemical Battalion was to assemble a smoke generator detachment with each regiment and be prepared on call to smoke the crossing areas and bridge sites after daylight, D-Day. The chemical mortars were to render maximum support to the crossing and subsequent advance.

Colonel Ben Harrell and his Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour, and Major Jack M. Duncan, Regimental S-3, made plans for the "7th Light Foot".

The Commanding Officer named the First Battalion under the command of Major Kenneth W. Wallace and the Second Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro to be the assault battalions. Each was to cross one rifle platoon by assault boats during the early night of D-1 in the vicinity of Biarville and seize the line of departure for an early morning attack on D-Day. Then the two battalions were to move the remainder of their troops by vehicle during the hours of darkness from the bivouac areas in Fremifontaine and Pierrepont, via Autrey and Jeanmenil, to detrucking points in La Salle. The troops were then to march by foot commencing at 0100 D-Day, from La Salle to the two bridge sites and cross to assembly areas east of the Meurthe River. The first road east of the river between La Voivre and La Hollande was to be the line of departure for the morning attack. With the Second Battalion on the right the two assault battalions were to attack at H-Hour and seize initial objectives (see Map No. 73). The Red Troops were to take the road junction on the south edge of La Hollande and establish a block while the Second Battalion troops were to capture La Voivre and send elements for Objective "C" to the southeast and contact the Third Division Battle Patrol which was to seize the bridge site opposite St. Michel-sur-Meurthe and establish a road block southeast on the St. Die road near La Pecherie.

The Third Battalion, under the command of Major Glen E. Rathbun, and in reserve, was to closely follow the assault battalions from the bivouac areas to La Salle, by vehicle, then by foot over the bridges to the east side of the river and be prepared to attack between the First and Second Battalions on Regimental order.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "D", 3rd Chemical Battalion, Detachment, 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion,

part of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol with twenty .50 calibre machine guns, and the First Platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop with six .50 calibre machine guns, were to support the attack from selected or direct fire positions from H-30 to H-Hour.

The enemy was not expected to have the area east of the Meurthe River, in the zone of the Seventh Infantry, very heavily guarded though it was known he had been preparing defenses for some time with the use of forced labor.

The night of 16-17 November 1944 the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol sent a six-man patrol to the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe with the mission of crossing the Meurthe River and reconnoitering the east bank. The patrol failed to accomplish its mission due to the swiftness of the water and lost a boat in the attempt. The next night an officer and two enlisted men from the Battle Patrol, accompanied by three enlisted men of Company "A", 10th Engineers, crossed the river by boat east of Biarville and reconnoitered the east bank. No enemy were encountered.

During the afternoon of 18 November the Seventh Infantry completed its short training program and prepared to break bivouac and to enter combat once more. D-Day was set for 20 November and H-Hour was named as 0645.

During the short stay in the vicinity of Fremifontaine efforts were made to make the men as comfortable as possible with many being billeted in houses in Le Haute Ville and La Basse Ville, the two villages of Fremifontaine. Those who could not be billeted in houses were quartered in pyramidal tents in the Bois de St. Helene. The Regimental Special Service Officer, Captain Ralph S. Reed, procured quantities of wine which was distributed to the various companies on the afternoon of 18 November and that night those who desired "bent their elbows" and imbibed the spirits. Two soldiers there were, in Company "I", who consumed more than the average. As matters developed, on the next day as the company waited for transportation, one successfully contrived to avoid the impending campaign. He and a full blooded Indian from Oklahoma sat back against a haystack before an open fire. He kept goading the full blooded Indian who was called "Chief", by extending one foot from under himself and saying, "Go ahead and shoot me, shoot me in the foot: I don't care." Then he would draw his foot back and say, "Wait awhile." He repeated that act several times until the "Chief" said, "If you want me to shoot you I'm just the man that can do it." Then once as he performed his act and repeated his request, he failed to withdraw his foot fast enough, for the Indian pulled his pistol and shot him clean through the foot. He then exclaimed, "Goddam Chief, you did."

First Lieutenant Denver C. Jividen, commanding officer of Company "I", was summoned to the scene and sent the injured man off by ambulance to the Medical aid station from whence he never returned as his combat days were over. The Indian then proceeded to sober up and get ready for combat which he never shirked. On two previous occasions when officers and men had sought cover and concealment, the "Chief" had delivered such effective fire from his Browning automatic rifle that the enemy fire was neutralized. In the days to come the "Chief" again demonstrated his great personal bravery and courage which seemed to be almost superhuman. Upon more than one occasion he used his superior strength to aid and lighten the load of failing and lagging

comrades. He was one of the outstanding combat soldiers of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment.⁸⁴

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE MEURTHE RIVER BY STEALTH AND ATTACKS TO THE EAST

In the afternoon of 19 November 1944 two assault rifle platoons, one each from the First and Second Battalions, moved to the vicinity of Biarville by truck. In the early night the rifle platoons were ferried across the Meurthe by boats manned by personnel of the 10th Combat Engineers. The riflemen seized the line of departure and outposted the ground east of the river to protect the Engineers who commenced construction of two foot bridges, one for each assault battalion. In order to cover the sound of the movement of the bridging equipment to the river, the supporting artillery fired one round every fifteen seconds for twenty minutes into enemy defenses on the east side of the river. The experienced and capable 10th Engineers worked with amazing efficiency and at 2000 the two footbridges were completed and marked with illuminating signs.

Meanwhile the "7th Light Foot", under the cover of darkness, functioned like a well oiled machine. The Regimental Command Post closed out of Fremifontaine and opened in Biarville at 1845. The Second Battalion troops passed the IP in St. Helene by vehicle at 2300 and detrucked in La Salle at midnight. The First and Third Battalions followed at half-hour intervals by the clock. The Battle Patrol, Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, attached and supporting weapons occupied their firing positions without a hitch.

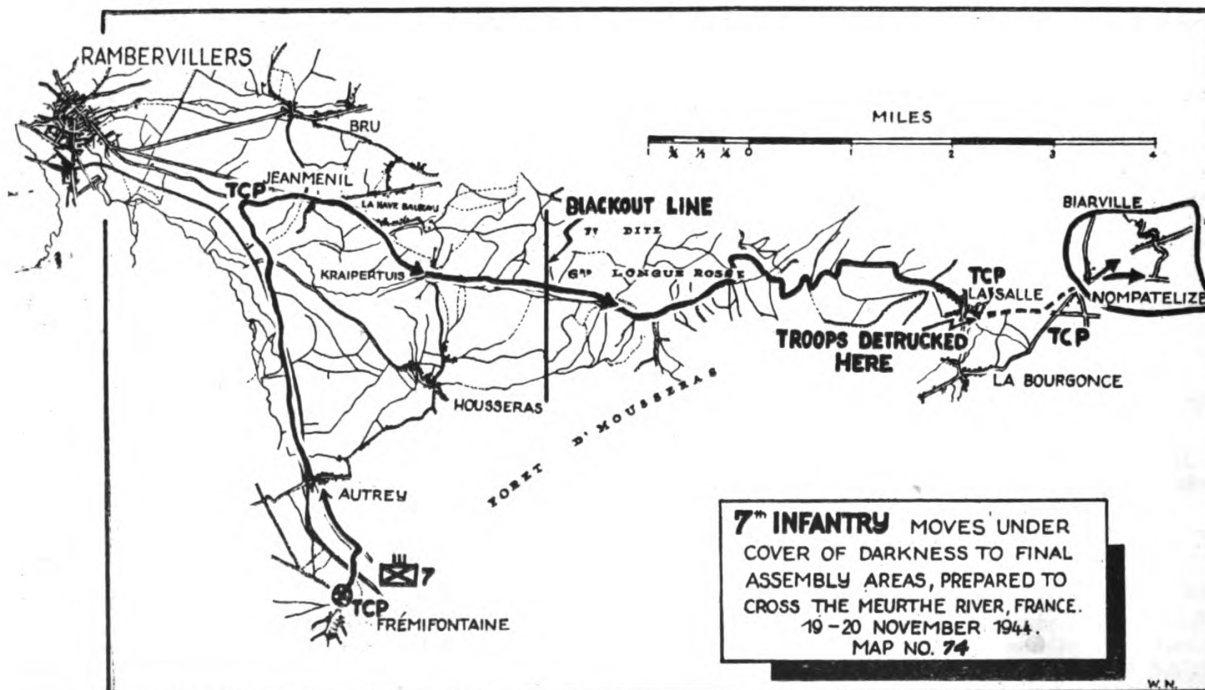
The troops marched by foot to Nompattelize where a traffic control post was established by Regimental Headquarters. At 0100, 20 November 1944, the Second Battalion troops passed the control post and moved due east through Brehimont on the road to St. Michel-sur-Meurthe to the railroad tracks paralleling the river, then moved north along the tracks to Bridge Site Number One

east of Biarville. Enemy artillery interdicted the road junction near Nompattelize and caused a few casualties but failed to slow up the operation. The First Battalion troops marched to Bridge Site Number Two via Nompattelize and Biarville. Without the loss of a man the Seventh Infantry troops crossed by the two foot bridges during the night. At 0445 the First and Second Battalions were in position to attack at H-Hour. By 0600 the Third Battalion, which had followed the Second Battalion route, was across the river and occupied reserve positions.

The old stand by, the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, the Third Infantry Division Artillery with the 93rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion attached, the 6th Field Artillery Group in direct support and Battery "D", 216th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, in general supported, and all the attached and supporting weapons of the Regiment opened up with a terrific thirty minute preparation on enemy defenses at 0615. At 0645 the preparatory fires lifted and the Seventh Infantry pushed off to the east in the attack.

The Second Battalion on the right advanced through heavily mined areas and received enemy artillery fire. Some small arms and machine gun resistance were encountered but overcome and the White Battalion troops

⁸⁴ The "Chief" or Private First Class Frank Pettus, which was his real name, completed the Southern France, Vosges Mountains and "Colmar Pocket" Campaigns without injury but he was seriously wounded during the Rhine River Crossing operations during the German Campaign. The "Chief" was never officially cited for gallantry but in the opinion of the writer was one who was deserving of award. For the shooting incident referred to above the "Chief" was brought before a Special Courts Martial board in Feb. '45 and judged guilty of violating one of the Articles of War. He was reduced to the grade of Private and fined two-thirds of his pay for a period of six months. In the opinion of many of his "buddies" the wrong man was court-martialled. In their opinion the man who asked to be shot in the foot should have been brought to trial for they believed that he had successfully contrived to avoid hazardous duty in the front lines and the river crossing operation that was about to come off.



entered the town of La Voivre at 0745. As "Easy" and "Fox" Companies cleaned out all resistance in La Voivre, capturing twenty-eight prisoners of war. "George" Company, under the command of Captain Leonard D. Hanney pushed on to the bridge site opposite St. Michel-sur-Meurthe.

In the early morning actions following the crossing of La Meurthe, Second Lieutenant Carl U. Albertson of Company "E", Technical Sergeant Donald H. McKibben and Technical Sergeant Joseph V. Hodgins, who was wounded in the action, both of Company "F", and Staff Sergeant Harry E. Havens, Jr., of Company "G" who was also wounded in the action won distinction for themselves while leading their units.⁸⁵

The First Battalion on the left attacked with "Baker" and "Charlie" companies under the command of Captain James B. Rich, Jr., and First Lieutenant Malcolm B. Toney, respectively, and held "Able" Company under the command of First Lieutenant Robert E. Evans in reserve. The troops crossed 400 yards of flooded terrain then moved through a 100 yard belt saturated with mines. Heavy casualties were suffered in the mine fields but the momentum of the assault never slackened.

At 0800 the assault companies of the First Battalion had seized their first objective the road junction and high ground south of La Hollande and established a road block on the road going east. With hardly a pause the assault companies drove on toward their second objective, the hill approximately one mile to the east and which overlooked the town of Hurbache. As they approached its crest, they were subjected to intense fire from a strong force of German riflemen, bulwarked by two machine guns formidably emplaced. Driving the Germans before them the Red Battalion troops seized the crest of the hill and "Charlie" Company entered the town of Hurbache at 1635 to help 30th Infantry elements clear it. The Red Battalion troops remained in Hurbache and on the hill until the next morning.

For the First Battalion that day Staff Sergeant Winston F. Pierce and Sergeant Patrick C. Kennelly, both of Company "D", and Private First Class Richard P. Dimeidio of Company "C" performed gallantly. All three men were wounded during the actions.⁸⁶

The Third Battalion placed its three rifle companies abreast along the first road east of the Meurthe River and while waiting to be committed suffered many casualties from mines and enemy artillery. At 0825 Colonel Harrell ordered Major Rathbun to commit his troops between the First and Second Battalions, which was done immediately. "King" Company under the command of First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne led off, passed through heavily mined areas in the face of enemy artillery fire. "Love" Company commanded by Captain Phillip T. Terry and "Item" Company under First Lieutenant Denver C. Jividen followed in order. After passing through the mine fields the battalion moved rapidly. At 1035 "King" Company was on Hill 379. Patrols were sent to the southeast for Hill 582.

Major Rathbun's troops moved rapidly and had seized Denipaire by 2100. In seizing the town the Battalion overran enemy artillery positions and shot up an enemy horse column which was being brought up to withdraw the artillery pieces. Much booty including a new enemy flak wagon was captured.

For the Third Battalion on 20 November 1944, Second Lieutenant Donald F. Stegmann of Company "K" and Private Julio G. Esquibel of Company "M" displayed gallantry. Members of the Medical Detachment who distinguished themselves were Captain Robert W. Donnelly, Staff Sergeant Robert E. Crane and Private First Class Guy W. Dodson.⁸⁷

The crossing of the Meurthe on 20 November 1944 was a very successful operation. The Seventh Infantry, and the 30th on its left, had caught the Germans off balance. The sector though well prepared for defense was undermanned. The heavily sown mine fields and enemy artillery fire was a very serious obstacle, however, and in spite of the seeming ease with which the "Cotton Baler" Regiment executed its missions, severe casualties were suffered. A total of 167 casualties were sustained by the Regiment during the morning of 20 November 1944. Two officers and twenty-nine enlisted men sacrificed their lives that day that the Regiment could move to accomplish its mission.



Three of the 60 "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 20-24 November 1944 were: (1) 1 Lt. Forrest H. Coleman, Jr., Co. "M"; (2) 1 Lt. John J. Greene, Co. "L", and (3) 2 Lt. Lawrence J. Tracy, Jr., Co. "A".

Forty enemy were captured and a small number wounded. According to the majority of the prisoners, our attack did not come as a surprise, though of course, they had no intimation that it would occur on any given day. However, the increased air activity on 19 November caused the enemy to assume that our attack was imminent and the artillery fire on 19-20 November strengthened that belief. Nearly all of the prisoners realized that their Meurthe positions could do no more than delay the advance; positions had not been completed and were greatly undermanned, which was aptly illustrated by the 7/726 GR, 716 Infantry Division which held a three kilometer sector with only forty men. A shortage of men was responsible for the lack of outposts, which somewhat explains the lack of enemy interference with the river crossing itself. The general enemy reaction, from company commanders down to riflemen, was one of resignation. They all complained of poor communications, lack of orientation concerning the tactical situation, and poor leadership on the part of the battalion and regimental officers. Little if anything was known of future operations or intentions. There was some talk of a "final" winter line further to the east in the high Vosges. There were no indications of any reserves and the prisoners were sceptical about the possibility of holding up our advance. Defenses were still incomplete and Russians and conscripted civilians were still preparing entrenchments.

Thus far, the nature of the enemy reaction to our attack was of a delaying action along the axis of our advance. Three new battalions were committed in front of the Seventh Infantry in the vicinity of Nayemont:

⁸⁵ GOs No. 11, 22, 59 & 158, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11 & 22 Jan., 23 Feb. & 12 May '45, 2 Lt. Albertson, T/Sgts. Hodgins & McKibben & S/Sgt. Havens were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁶ GOs No. 35, 227 & 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 4 Feb., 25 June & 18 July '45, S/Sgt. Winters, Sgt. Kennelly & Pfc Dimeidio were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁸⁷ GOs No. 11, 13, 208, 211 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 11, 13 Jan., 12 & 15 June & 9 Aug. '45, 2 Lt. Stegmann, Capt. Donnelly, S/Sgt. Crane, Pfc Dodson & Pvt. Esquibel were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

the 202nd Mountain Battalion, 716th Fusilier Battalion and elements of a Cossack Bicycle training battalion. While the Infantry crossed the Meurthe, Engineers worked to construct treadway and bailey bridges in the vicinity of St. Michel-sur-Meurthe and were harassed by artillery fire. Eleven tanks and six tank destroyers crossed over the treadway bridge during the morning and were temporarily attached to the First Battalion. Another tank attempting to ford the river sank out of sight in the raging torrent.

7th INFANTRY PUSHES ON TO THE EAST

The Seventh Infantry pushed on to the east on 21 November 1944. The First Battalion struck across open country and fanned out. "Able" Company advanced on La Fontenelle which it seized without resistance. However "Charlie" Company came under furious and withering fire on the outskirts of Launois from an estimated company of Germans, emplaced in buildings and equipped with bazookas, two machine guns and a variety of small arms. While the First and Second Platoons laid down a base of fire, the Third Platoon plunged through machine gun crossfire to storm the hostile positions. The intrepid assault overwhelmed the enemy force. The town was penetrated, three Germans killed, sixteen captured and the rest driven back. Then the First and Third Platoons advanced 100 yards through machine gun and bazooka fire to blast a German rifle squad from a position in a building. "Charlie" Company then cleared Launois and Marie as "Baker" Company occupied Hill 627, organized its defense and blocked the road.

The Third Battalion meanwhile advanced along the road to St. Jean d'Ormont and seized the town after receiving fire from two enemy self-propelled guns and engaging enemy in a fire fight. The advance was continued against scattered small arms resistance and the town of Battant de Bourras was seized during the night.

The 103rd Infantry Division crossed over the Meurthe River by Third Infantry Division bridges on 21 November 1944 and passed through the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, to the southeast to enlarge the bridgehead. The Second Battalion troops moved to Denipaire and early 22 November passed through the Third Battalion in Battant de Bourras to continue the

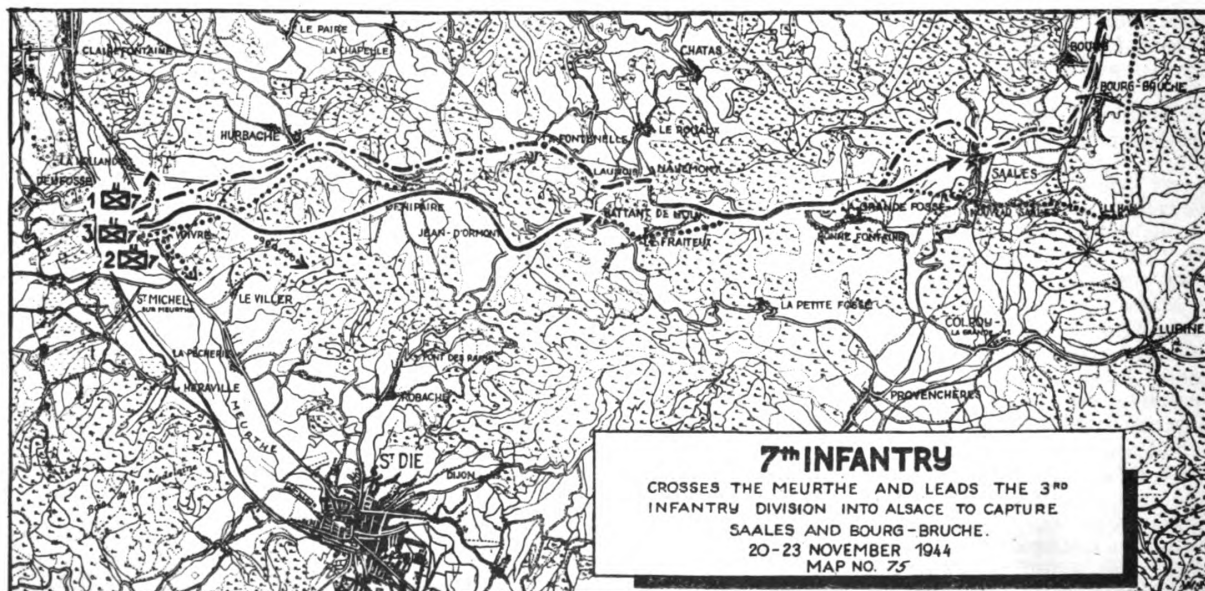
attack. At 1050 Hill 619 was seized and enemy fire from Le Fraiteux crossroads was drawn. Second Lieutenants Willis B. Conklin and James A. Crough, both of Company "E", led the actions which eliminated the enemy roadblock at Le Fraiteux.⁸⁸ The Second Battalion continued on to the east.

Early in the morning of 22 November, Company "A" advanced in an attack on the town of Nayemont, situated on an open slope and adjoining Launois. Up to that point the Red Battalion had encountered only hastily organized resistance but in Nayemont, the enemy was massed in formidable strength and prepared to fight with fury and determination to hold the town. An all-day fight resulted. Two squads advanced well ahead of the company and occupied the first house in town without encountering enemy fire. Two assault platoons follow across 400 yards of bare, coverless terrain. Midway to its goal, these platoons encountered heavy fire from enemy flakwagons on a high ridge 500 yards to their right front. Led by First Lieutenant Robert A. Evans, the Company Commander, the Third Platoon and the Company OP Group stormed through this fire to the house. The First Platoon which was in a vortex of flak and mortar fire, crossed the open field in short rushes. As the men moved forward across the bare expanse of open ground, enemy riflemen fired at them from concealed positions.

The two assault platoons of Company "A" engaged a strong enemy force emplaced in the adjoining house approximately one hundred yards away, in an hour-long fire fight. Two tanks were brought up for support, but as they came abreast of the first house, one was knocked out by 77mm fire from the ridge and the other was forced to withdraw. An assault squad flanked the German strongpoint from the left, fired rifle grenades through the shattered windows, then stormed inside to take three prisoners and drive off the remaining enemy.

Supporting tanks finally located the hostile "77" and knocked it out but the route into Nayemont was still guarded by heavy flak and rifle fire and a deadly maze of enemy mines. Paced by two light tanks and a tank

⁸⁸ GOs No. 29 & 177, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Jan. & 16 May '45. 2 Lts. Conklin & Crough were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



destroyer, the Second Platoon of "Able" Company advanced into this maelstrom of German fire, suffering casualties almost instantly. The light tanks detonated mines which blew off their tracks. Alone, the Infantrymen fought their way forward, yard by yard and inch by inch, reaching the first block of houses after an hour of alternate rushing and crawling through fire.

Then the task of clearing the compact group of houses began in earnest. A squad from the Third Platoon rushed forward across fifty yards of open terrain in a flank attack on an enemy house-stronghold. Machine gun fire blazed at the "Cotton Balers" at a range of seventy-five yards.

Supporting tanks and 60mm mortars opened up on an enemy flakwagon and destroyed it. Harassing fire continued from the ridge, however, as the "Cotton Balers" worked their way forward from house to house, blasting the Germans from their positions at point-blank range. First Lieutenant Evans led an assault squad in storming a house with hand grenades, captured eleven dazed Germans, then received volley after volley of German fire from the adjoining building only fifteen yards away.

The enemy placed an artillery concentration on the area, despite the fact that combat was occurring at such close range that shells threatened both sides impartially. In an effort to use his position as an artillery observation post, First Lieutenant Evans sent Private First Class Albert J. Limpp back for wire, but the runner was killed by a sniper's bullet. Isolated in its advance position, the squad was pounded by shells while rifle bullets shattered the windows and dug into the walls. The Germans inside the building pleaded with their captors to surrender, but the squad doggedly held on. The squad leader then took two men, and, plunging through a hail of fire, rushed the enemy-held house. Hurling hand grenades and firing through the rear doorway, the three men engaged the Germans inside the building until the rest of the platoon reached them. Storming the house, they then captured twenty-six Germans, including a battalion commander and his executive officer. Meanwhile the First Platoon leaptfrogged its squads from one house to the next, driving the enemy back relentlessly and clearing fifteen buildings. Forcing its way into a building behind a storm of hand grenades, the platoon overpowered seventeen Germans in a brief, but fierce fire fight.

During the afternoon, Companies "B" and "C" enveloped the town from the flanks, joined forces on a ridge and blocked the enemy's escape. Although wounded in the leg that day, Captain James B. Rich, commanding "Baker" Company, led his Third Platoon in a charge on the remaining houses in Nayemont. Striking swiftly from an unexpected direction, the Third Platoon overran two German platoons, 39 prisoners were taken and an unknown number killed.

"Able" and "Charlie" Companies completed the mopping up before dusk, took a total of 85 prisoners and killed or wounded an estimated 50. Nayemont was taken and the First Battalion dug in for the night on the outskirts of the town. The speed and fearlessness with which First Lieutenant Evans had led "Able" Company into the town had resulted in its principal portion being cleared by his company. In a subsequent action he was killed.

In addition to First Lieutenant Evans, Staff Sergeant Bennie A. Eye, Sergeant William A. Corbe and Private Chester F. Davis, all of Company "A", and Private William M. Chaves, Jr., of Company "D", covered themselves with honor during the fighting for Nayemont.⁸⁹

After Nayemont was taken the Regimental Battle Patrol advanced east on the Saales road about a mile and encountered mined enemy road blocks and enemy troops supported by an anti-tank gun just south of Hill 752.

THIRD BATTALION LIBERATES SAALES, ALSACE

The Third Battalion came out of reserve, passed through the Second Battalion and continued the attack during the night of 22-23 November 1944. The road block which had been encountered by the Battle Patrol was by-passed to the south by Major Rathbun's Third Battalion troops and at 0100 "Item" Company seized the town of La Grande Fosse.

"King" Company led the Third Battalion in a continuation of the attack from La Grande Fosse at 0430. In the inky blackness the troops ran smack into a Kraut roadblock which was unarmed however. Fearing the roadblock might be flanked with mines, First Lieutenant Ralph W. Payne, the Company Commander, ordered the men to scale the ten foot barrier of logs. Over they went and on through the mud and drizzling rain toward Saales, to reach it before morning light should foil their plans. "Love" Company followed and discovered there were no mines near the block. Company "K" hit the outskirts of Saales at 0730 receiving very little small arms fire from the Boche who were just getting up and coming out of their hutments to their emplacements. The Germans had expected the Yanks, but not for several days. One of the Krauts came out of his hutment with raincoat and overcoat thrown over his rifle and of course never got the opportunity to fire a shot. The "Cotton Balers" jumped over the dugouts, many of which were relics of World War I, cleaned them out, cut the barbed wire and moved through the elaborate Boche winter line of defense. An enormous amount of equipment was captured and it was discovered the Germans still had not completed their defensive line. One enemy sniper who saw the Third Battalion troops coming took a hasty shot then headed for the woods but was later captured.

The Third Battalion's Forward Observation Post was set up in a house at the western edge of the town. Just as "Item" Company passed they received anti-tank fire, making things warm for the "Cotton Baler" Riflemen. It was the first anti-tank fire received in the town. Within ten minutes "Love" Company charged into the town, killed ten enemy and took ten prisoners. The Germans, after discovering Americans in their midst, opened up with small arms fire, 20mm flakwagons and light mortars. In the center of the town where the German Gestapo had its headquarters, men of Company "L" walked in on a German officer who stated that it was impossible for the Americans to be in town. But a "Tommy" gun stuck in his ribs convinced him differently. From another building "Cotton Balers" had roasted duck and hot coffee for chow, a little delicacy left behind by the retreating Boche. A forty-man group of Germans tried a futile counter-attack against "Love" Company but they were completely routed in twenty minutes time.

Though the Germans in Saales were taken completely by surprise by the Third Battalion troops, they did not quit without a fight. Company "K" became engaged in a stiff fight after the surprise effects had worn off.

⁸⁹ GOS No. 40, 171, 177, 256 & 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Dec. '44, 9 Feb., 22 & 25 May & 15 July '45. 1 Lt. Evans & Sgt. Chaves, both posthumously, S/Sgt. Eye, Sgt. Corbe & Pvt. Davis were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

When an 88mm gun fired on his platoon from a concealed position, halting it and causing several casualties, Private First Class Emil Stefek, Jr., of Company "K", left cover to locate and destroy the hostile weapon. Armed only with an M-1 rifle, he rushed ten yards through heavy sniper fire and assumed a firing position behind the inadequate cover of a water fountain. As the "88" fired at him from a range of only 200 yards and a German sniper severely wounded him, Private First Class Stefek engaged the enemy and dispatched two of the 88mm gun crew with his M-1 rifle. When he attempted to continue his lone battle, his rifle jammed. With a third German running toward the "88" he had no time to eliminate the stoppage. With only seconds to spare, he dashed to a Browning Automatic Rifleman, seized his weapon, and returned with it to his position behind the fountain just as the German had completed loading and laying the "88". One burst from the automatic rifle killed the new German gunner as he was about to fire. Private First Class Stefek's bold attack on the strong enemy position in Saales disorganized the remaining German force in the town, enabling the temporarily halted troops to drive forward, eliminate all sniper resistance, capture large enemy stores and seize intact an elaborate trench and concrete pillbox system which the enemy had had no time to man. The brave and courageous young man died of his wounds that day. For the extraordinary heroism which he displayed that morning Private First Class Emil Stefek, Jr., was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁹⁰

The Third Battalion continued fighting from house to house inside the town, pot-shooting at snipers and clearing out the remaining troops left behind. The battalion captured two 88mm guns and two smaller calibre anti-tank guns, a large amount of ammunition and the prize booty of all, the German SS troop and Gestapo Headquarters, with all its records intact. It was the first such headquarters taken by any VI Corps unit. Four enemy Infantry companies plus one engineer company had been completely taken by surprise. They put up a stiff fight but were no match for Major Rathbun's Third Battalion "Cotton Balers", who were in complete possession of Saales at 1535. Three strong blocks were established around the town, one by Company "I" on the road south to Nouveau Saales, one by Company "L" on the road to the east toward Bourg-Bruche and one by Company "K" on the road to the north by St. Barbe. The Battalion Observation and Command Post were set up in the town.

The capture of Saales by the Third Battalion in its lightning night move marked another first for "Cotton Baler" troops. They were the first Third Infantry Division and VI Corps troops into the ancient province of Alsace, and Saales was the first Alsatian town to be freed. It marked the first real breakthrough of the enemy's Vosges winter line and broke any hope the Germans had of holding there until spring. Saales was the key spot of the German drafted-labor movement in that part of France. Men of French and Russian descent were brought to Saales, put into German uniforms and forced to construct elaborate defenses by cutting timber, stringing barbed wire and digging trenches and emplacements. But they were never able to finish, for they were pulled out just a short while before the "Cotton Balers" entered the town. During the entire operation the Blue Battalion had been out of communication with Regimental Headquarters and was completely on its own. Major Rathbun paid high tribute to his troops when he said, "The men were superb and operated perfectly."

Private First Class Ruben Caesar of Company "M" and Private James H. Robertson of Company "L" won

honors during the early morning fighting in Saales. Colonel Ben Harrell personally directed the operations which removed the blocks before the town.⁹¹

The First Battalion moved by truck from Nayemont through La Grande Fosse and detrucked at the little settlement of Beausoleit. Colonel Harrell had ordered the First Battalion troops to move to the heights of St. Barbe then assist the Third Battalion in clearing Saales. The Red troops executed their maneuver but when they entered Saales in the afternoon they found the Third Battalion troops already in complete possession.

FIRST BATTALION CAPTURES BOURG-BRUCHE IN STIFF FIGHT 23-24 NOVEMBER 1944

At 1730, 23 November 1944 the First Battalion moved out in a column of companies from Saales to attack the neighboring town of Bourg-Bruche. There the Germans had marshaled a powerful striking force and were on the verge of counter-attacking the Third Battalion to recapture Saales, but once again Colonel Harrell foiled the enemy's plans by throwing a hard-hitting battalion at him before he could get set.

Approximately 150 yards beyond Saales forward elements of Company "B" encountered heavy machine gun and rifle fire from both sides of the road. Fighting in the deceptive light of dusk, the Third Platoon captured 16 Germans, wounded and killed an undetermined number and put the rest to flight. Staff Sergeant James P. Wils was honored for the part he played during the action.⁹²

At 1930 hours, the First Battalion resumed its advance along the highway. After proceeding approximately one mile, blasts of machine gun crossfire and rifle-launched grenades flayed the troops of "Baker" Company which was in the assault. Reconnaissance disclosed that a strong German force was defending the railroad overpass at Brehimoulin, which had been partially demolished by explosives. Huge chunks of concrete blocked the highway where it passed beneath the railroad. Two machine guns on the embankment rained fire on the advancing troops and caused four casualties with the first blasts of fire. Rifle grenadiers moved ahead and blasted the enemy positions. Riflemen moved to within 25 yards of the underpass. The light was so weak and uncertain that the soldiers were obliged to fire at the muzzle blasts from the enemy weapons. The Germans then sent a platoon to strike at the left flank of Company "B" but the enemy force stupidly silhouetted itself on the embankment and was decimated by grenades and rifle fire.

Withering fire from the men in Company "B" gradually drove the stubborn enemy from the forward slope of the embankment. Second Lieutenant Joseph J. Gross, leader of the First Platoon, then led three successive advances to seize the top of the embankment, but each time his men were hurled back by machine gun fire from a building 50 yards to their right. Disregarding a storm of fire, Second Lieutenant Gross climbed the embankment alone, located the German machine gun position and directed Private First Class James J. Horne, a rifle grenadier, to knock it out. As Private First Class Horne stepped to the top of the embankment a rifle grenade hit

⁹⁰ For authority see GO 16, Hq. 7th Army, 23 Jan. 1945.

⁹¹ GOs No. 278, 299 & 313, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 3 Dec. '44, 15 & 27 Aug. '45. Col. Harrell, Pfc Caesar & Pvt. Robertson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹² GO No. 171, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 22 May '45. S/Sgt. Wils was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

fifteen yards from him and enemy bullets barely missed him. Coolly taking aim he sent three rifle grenades through a window of the house, knocked out the machine gun and killed four Germans. As a result the vehicle with a mounted machine gun, in the underpass, withdrew and Company "B" was able to continue its advance.⁹³

As the beaten enemy withdrew toward Bourg-Bruche, the First Battalion troops resumed their advance. A tank dozer began to clear the cement blocks and rubble around the overpass so that the road could be reopened for armor and vehicles. The First and Third Platoons of "Baker" Company drove on for the crossroads of Les Paires west of the railroad at Bourg-Bruche, where there were three houses just to the south and one to the north.

Breaking into the first house with hand grenades and blazing Browning automatic rifles, the First Platoon captured three and killed a fourth German. The Germans were formidably emplaced in two of the other buildings and dominated the crossing with their fire. Flakwagon and "88" shells deluged the intersection with continuous and accurate fire. The intrepid First Platoon surged forward, lost two men killed and five wounded and became halted.

Second Lieutenant Wendell D. Leavitt left the one building in "Baker" Company hands and ran 300 yards back to friendly armor, despite the enemy shells. He mounted a supporting tank and guided it forward. Despite the heavy small arms fire that ricocheted off the tank and rifle grenades that exploded within twenty yards of him, he rode atop the tank until he brought it into position 75 yards from the enemy. Then directing the fire of the tank's 76mm cannon he temporarily silenced the German 88mm and flak guns. He then pounded the enemy-held buildings where the German Infantry was entrenched and directed the tank's machine gun fire at a church steeple occupied by an enemy sniper. Assault elements of the First and Third Platoons then charged forward, broke their way into the building-strongholds and destroyed Germans in room to room battles in the pitch black darkness, killed four of the enemy, captured thirteen and put the rest to flight.

As "Baker" Company fought for the Les Paires Crossroads, "Charlie" Company drove up the right side of the highway and penetrated into Bourg-Bruche proper. The Third Platoon which had been reduced to only nine men by the bitter fighting in the Vosges, occupied a large house, well in advance of the main positions of the assault companies. The platoon, which comprised four experienced soldiers, four raw reinforcements and an aid man, was subjected to an all-night ordeal of panzerfaust, rifle and hand grenade fire. Surrounded and besieged by a determined enemy force, the small group, under the leadership of Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst, held its position alone and unaided for five hours. The front and rear doors were blown apart. Approximately twenty grenades and rockets exploded inside the large, ramshackle building and transformed the rooms into an inferno of flying shards of steel. One man was so deafened by the concussion from the constant explosions that he lost his hearing. After two and one-half hours of fighting, a squad of Germans assaulted the house, hurled half a dozen grenades through the battered windows and demanded that the skeleton platoon surrender. The valiant defenders replied by throwing hand grenades back at their assailants, caused heavy casualties and forced the Germans to abandon their efforts to take the building by storm.

Another group also found itself under virtual siege in a captured house. First Lieutenant Melvin L. Groot, Privates First Class Arthur J. Binder, Merle M. Dettbarn, Ervin E. St. Pierre, and Private Paul V. Huston

were wounded at the outset by a hail of German grenades and rockets. Barricading all entrances with furniture, the men held out all night against successive forays by a strong enemy assault force, which was familiar with every street and house in the town. Fighting with grenades and rifles, the determined "Cotton Balers" stuck grimly to their post, despite overwhelming odds, until the coming of daylight enabled them to break through the cordon thrown around them.

After inspiring his small platoon to hold off the Germans through the night, Staff Sergeant Michael A. Ernst made a reconnaissance to the front at daylight and observed two Germans near a pill box. Moving to within ten yards of the strongpoint he persuaded the two enemy, with his pointed rifle, to surrender. He then called on Germans in nearby positions to capitulate and succeeded in taking a total of 51 prisoners.

At daybreak, a company of Germans infiltrated to the First Battalion's rear, captured a medical jeep and four American prisoners. The jeep was then used to set up a road block at Road Junction 514 by the big bend south of Bourg-Bruche. Company "L" of the Blue Battalion moved out of Saales to destroy and remove the block. As two German guards led the four American captives through Bourg-Bruche, the First Sergeant of Company "C" spotted them. At one hundred yards range he shot and killed both Germans and freed the prisoners.

Meanwhile the First and Third Platoons of "Charlie" Company joined forces and proceeded to clean out the houses on the right side of the east-west road which runs through Bourg-Bruche. The Second Platoon followed in support. The attack occurred under continuous fire from powerful enemy artillery emplaced on a ridge running north-south and masking the eastern portion of the town. The ridge contained a long communications trench and heavily fortified emplacements. Pressing their attack, the two platoons reached a tavern near a railroad underpass, where they remained despite concentrated mortar, machine gun and rifle fire. Using the attic of the tavern as an observation post, they directed artillery fire on the German gun emplacements, knocked out an "88", blew up an ammunition dump and destroyed a dug-in 20mm flakwagon.

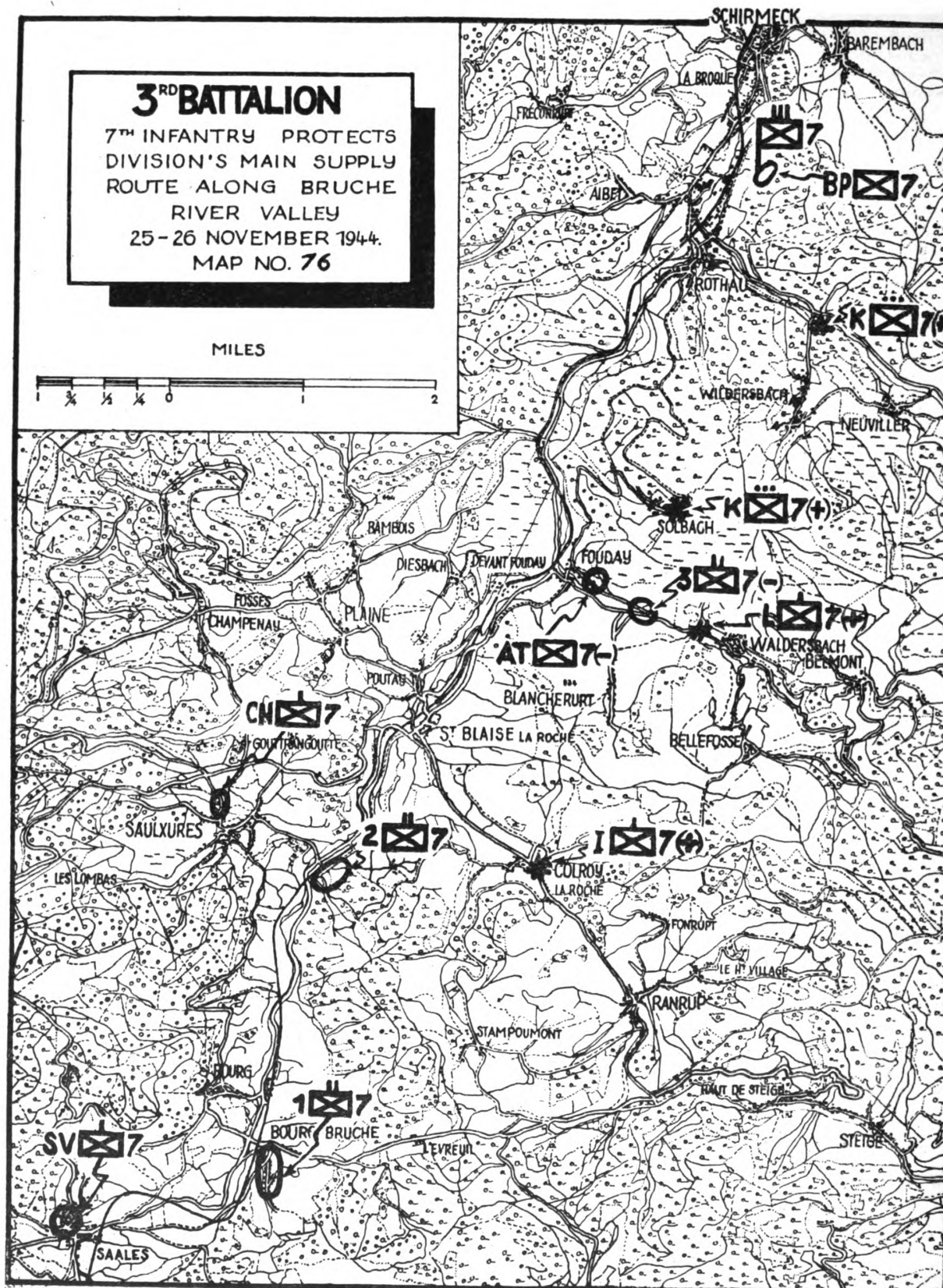
While "Baker" and "Charlie" Companies were battling, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace committed "Able" Company in an attack on the eastern section of the town.

Company "A" drew furious blasts of flak and machine gun fire, then received intensive mortar concentrations. Second Lieutenant Lawrence J. Tracy Jr., First Sergeant Francis M. Herring and Private First Class Samuel Merlino were killed early in the fight. The Third Platoon stormed forward nevertheless and succeeded in capturing nine Germans and two flak wagons. Resistance began breaking.

Companies "B" and "C" occupied positions in a cluster of buildings and rained fire on the Germans emplaced on the ridge. By mid-afternoon they had killed a large number and silenced two machine guns. Friendly mortars and artillery pounded the forward slope of the ridge, and in an effort to kill as many Germans as possible, forward observers brought fire to within fifty yards of their own positions.

At about 1300 hours, the Third Platoon of Company "C" assaulted the communications trench dug into the ridge. As the platoon surged up the hill slope enemy resistance collapsed and approximately 85 prisoners were

⁹³ GO No. 130, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 April '45. Pfc Horne was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



taken. Remnants of the battered German garrison fled from Bourg-Bruche. By 1630 the town was firmly in the hands of the First Battalion, except for isolated snipers. Approximately 200 prisoners had been taken and 75 of the enemy killed. The remainder of the enemy force scattered through the Vosges in a desperate, but unsuccessful, attempt to avoid capture or destruction. The bloody night and day battle for Bourg-Bruche had pulverized a strong German force.

FIRST BATTALION IS CITED BY THE PRESIDENT

For its outstanding performance in action during the period of 20-24 November 1944 in its rapid crossing of the Meurthe River and the capture of Nayemont and Bourg-Bruche, the First Battalion, Seventh Infantry, received the Presidential Unit Citation.⁹⁴

Second Lieutenant Gross, who was killed in a subsequent action, Second Lieutenant Leavitt and Staff Sergeant Ernst were cited for the gallantry they displayed during the fighting for Bourg-Bruche. Others also cited for actions during the same fighting were First Lieutenant Walter R. Warne and Private First Class John A. Henrich, both of Company "D"; Sergeant Homer E. Probst, Technician Fifth Grade William H. Healy, Private First Class Phillip A. Brandenburg and Private Arthur Benjamin, all of Company "A"; and Private First Class John Gojmerac of Company "B".⁹⁵

The Second Battalion, which remained in La Grande Fosse in Regimental Reserve the night of 23-24 November 1944, sent a strong patrol to Bonne Fontaine and to the road junction farther south. At dawn the White Battalion troops marched from La Grande Fosse through Beausoleil to Les Frenots then cut southeast to Nouveau Saales and across country to Le Han where an enemy force was overcome in a brief fire fight and 28 prisoners of war taken. The battalion moved north from Le Han and cut the Bourg-Bruche-La Salee road about two-thirds of a mile east of Bourg-Bruche. Company "F" was left there to block the road and the remainder of the battalion moved on to contact enemy in the vicinity of Petite Alhan and Hill 679. A fight ensued with small arms and machine guns and the Second Battalion troops captured 51 prisoners of war during the night. Company "F" was relieved of its road block by Company "C" and rejoined the battalion.

Meanwhile the Third Battalion had moved out of Saales. The block the enemy had established at Road Junction 514 was eliminated and the troops passed through the First Battalion troops in Bourg-Bruche at 1545 to continue the attack to the north. Enemy resistance was encountered but overcome and at 1840 Companies "K" and "L" were on the objective, the second railroad crossing north of Bourg-Bruche and southeast of Saulxures. Company "I" trailed and was at the first railroad crossing west of Tifanrupt. Twenty-three prisoners of war had been taken during the advance.

The rapid advances of the Seventh Infantry after crossing the Meurthe River had smashed through the German winter line in the Vosges. By keeping at least one battalion always in the attack, even at night, Colonel Harrell had given the enemy no rest or opportunity to get set. The Krauts were always kept off-balance and rocked back on their heels with devastating blows to the head and body. The going was tough on the "Cotton Baler" boys, but they were made of stern stuff and stood up under the terrific strain.

Meanwhile the 30th Infantry, on the left, hurried to keep pace with the Seventh Infantry. A task force consisting of 15th Infantry elements was organized and

thrown into the fray. In conjunction with a battalion from the 30th Infantry the task force captured Saulxures. The Seventh Infantry passed to Division reserve as the 15th Infantry task force and 30th Infantry elements moved on to the main road and pushed north.

Early 25 November 1944 the Blue Battalion moved by foot through St. Blaise La Roche to Fouday then turned east and assembled in Le Trouchy.

As the Third Infantry Division, due to the magnificent work of its assault battalions, had smashed through the German Winter Line and was way ahead of all other VI Corps units, the Seventh Infantry, which smashed main defenses, got the mission on 25 November of protecting the Division's rear and exposed right flank as the 15th and 30th Infantries chased the fleeing Kraut toward Strasbourg.

The First Battalion (reinforced) was kept motorized and assembled in Bourg-Bruche while the Second Battalion was assembled near the main road by La Goutelle.

The Third Battalion (reinforced) protected the Division's axis of supply and communication by defending the southeast open flank with strong road blocks and strong combat patrols. Company "I" established a block at Colroy-la-Roche and sent patrols toward Ranrupt. An enemy road block consisting of riflemen and machine guns was encountered. Company "L" established a block at Le Trouchy. Patrols to Waldersbach encountered a strong enemy road block consisting of fallen trees, riflemen and machine guns. Fire was received from what was believed to be an enemy self-propelled gun and mortars in Waldersbach. Artillery was directed into the town, and patrols which later entered Waldersbach reported two enemy 75mm howitzers had been knocked out by the fire. A bridge in the town was blown as the enemy had withdrawn. Company "K" established a block southeast from Rothau and during the night of 25-26 November sent patrols into Neuville and Natzviller, but failed to contact any enemy. Another block was established by Company "K" in Solbach and patrols sent to the east.

The Regimental Command Post closed out of Saales and opened in Rothau. The Third Infantry Division continued its rapid advance east through the LaBruche River Valley on 26 November. The 15th Infantry advanced without opposition from Schirmeck to the outskirts of Mutzig while the 30th Infantry seized the towns of Grendelbruch, Laubenheim and Mollkirch against light opposition.

Meanwhile the Second French Armored Division, fighting for the XV Corps on the left of the VI Corps, made a spectacular dash through the Saverne Gap and captured all of Strasbourg, except a bridgehead the Germans held on to in the vicinity of the Kehl bridges.

7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO STRASBOURG THE NIGHT OF 26-27 NOVEMBER 1944

From its command post in Mullerhof on 26 November the Third Infantry Division issued orders for the continuance of its advance to the historic Rhine River.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ For authority see GO 254, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., 14 July 1945.

⁹⁵ GOs No. 11, 70, 89, 120, 161 & 235, HQ. 3d Inf. Div., 11 Jan., 26 Feb., 9 Mar., 6 April, 14 May & 29 June '45. 1 Lt. Warne & Pfc Henrich were each awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 2 Lt. Gross, posthumously, 2 Lt. Leavitt, S/Sgt. Ernst, Sgt. Probst, T/5 Healy, Pfc Brandenburg & Gojmerac & Pvt. Benjamin were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹⁶ O. I. No. 100, Hq. 3d Inf. Div., Mullerhof, France, 26 Nov. 1944.

In recognition and honor of its magnificent and unequalled record the Seventh Infantry, or "Cotton Baler", Regiment minus one battalion was ordered to move by truck during the night 26-27 November to an assembly area in West Strasbourg in the vicinity of Cronenburg, and was directed to relieve the Second French Armored Division the following night. A defense of the west bank of the Rhine was to be organized.

The 15th Infantry was ordered to continue its advance in its zone with all possible speed and seize the west bank of the Rhine south of Strasbourg while the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron had a similar mission north of the city. The 30th Infantry was to pass into Division reserve. The Third Reconnaissance Troop was to operate south of the 15th Infantry and on the 27th of November Combat Command "A" of the 14th Armored Division was to pass through the Third Infantry Division from Schirmeck, and advance on Erstein and Benfield to the south.

Accordingly, without incident, the Seventh Infantry minus the Third Battalion, which continued to protect the Division's exposed flank, moved with its attachments and supporting units into Strasbourg, the Cathedral City on the Rhine, the Capital of Alsace and of the Bas Rhin Department of France, which before the war was populated by 192,000 German and French speaking inhabitants.

The Second French Armored Division was relieved the following night as planned and at 0730, 28 November Colonel Ben Harrell assumed command of the city from the French General Jacques LeClerc.

The Third Battalion was released of responsibility of manning its road blocks on 28 November and assembled in Strasbourg, but was attached to a task force. The city of Strasbourg was divided into four areas. The Battle Patrol, Second and Third Platoons of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion's Reconnaissance Company and the Third Platoon, of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, commenced continuous patrols of assigned areas.

The enemy still held the waterfront section of Strasbourg on the islands between the Bassin Des Remparts or Wallbecken, Bassin Vauban or Verbindungsbecken

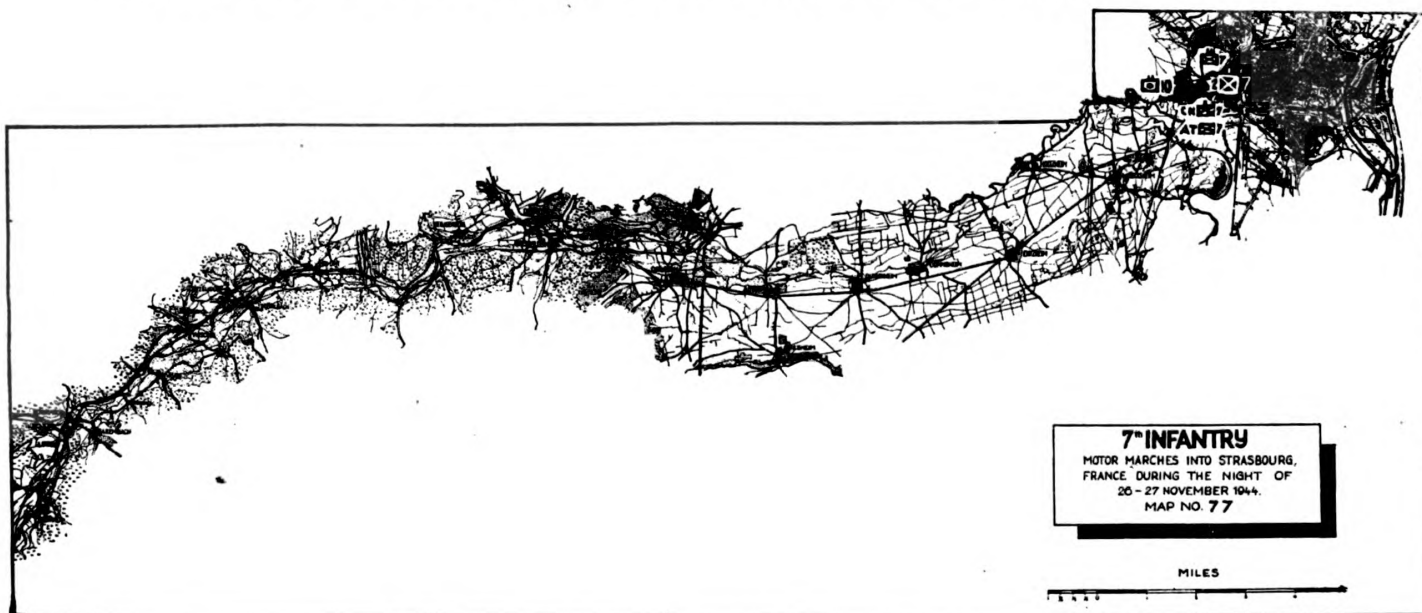
(according to whichever map you use, French or German) and the Rhine River.

The Regiment commenced immediately the task of wiping out the enemy bridgehead. During the night of 28-29 November the First Battalion pushed "Charlie" Company and one platoon of "Baker" Company across the Bassin Vauban or Verbindungsbecken. "Charlie" Company seized the buildings of Us de Sojerries without trouble while the "Baker" Company platoon, guided by a Frenchman, crossed further north without resistance.

The Second Battalion however contacted enemy along the railroad tracks that cross the islands and engaged in a hand grenade fight during the night. The enemy harassed the Second Battalion troops with artillery during the night and at 0600 in the morning concentrated fifty rounds on the "Cotton Baler" dogfaces. Company "F" bagged one prisoner who said that there were two divisions of enemy troops in Kehl, across the Rhine, and that a counter-attack might be attempted. He further stated that there were from 300 to 375 enemy troops dug-in on the Strasbourg side of the river near the bridges.

Both sides laid low during the day of 29 November and the Germans, through a civilian, asked for a truce to evacuate the forty or more families of civilians living in the apartment houses near the three bridges which spanned the Rhine, the railroad bridge, and two bridges for vehicular traffic, one being of wooden structure. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro sent word to the enemy that he would deal only with a German officer who must come through the lines to make terms for a truce. The enemy failed to send an officer and no truce was made. However as many civilians as possible were evacuated by the Second Battalion through prisoner of war interrogation channels.

A train was seen pulling into Kehl during the afternoon and the 10th Field Artillery Battalion directed fire on it. Cannon Company spotted enemy tanks in the Hippodrome south of the tracks near the Rhine River and fired on them. While patrolling its section of the city of Strasbourg that afternoon the Battle Patrol was fired on by enemy snipers. It was known that many enemy had changed to civilian garb before the city had capitulated and it was not safe to traverse the streets unaccompanied or unarmed, especially at night.



First and Second Battalion patrols operated aggressively during the night of 29-30 November. "Charlie" Company sent a patrol across Le Petite Rhin or the Kleiner Rhein and reported a building burning. Company "F" bagged three more prisoners in the vicinity of the railroad tracks. Company "E" investigated the peninsula between Le Petite Rhin and the Bassin du Commerce and found it unoccupied. The boxcars on the railway were unoccupied but enemy held the warehouses and apartment houses. Much activity was heard in Kehl.

The following day the enemy shelled the power plant, held by the First Battalion, with heavy concentrations and put it out of order, as well as the water plant. The Second Battalion evacuated more than 100 civilians as preparations were made to launch an attack against the enemy-held bridgehead.

7th INFANTRY WIPES OUT KEHL BRIDGEHEAD IN THE "BATTLE OF THE APARTMENT HOUSES" 30 NOVEMBER TO 2 DECEMBER 1944

At 2300 on 30 November Company "C" opened the Seventh Infantry attack to wipe out the enemy's bridgehead west of the Rhine.

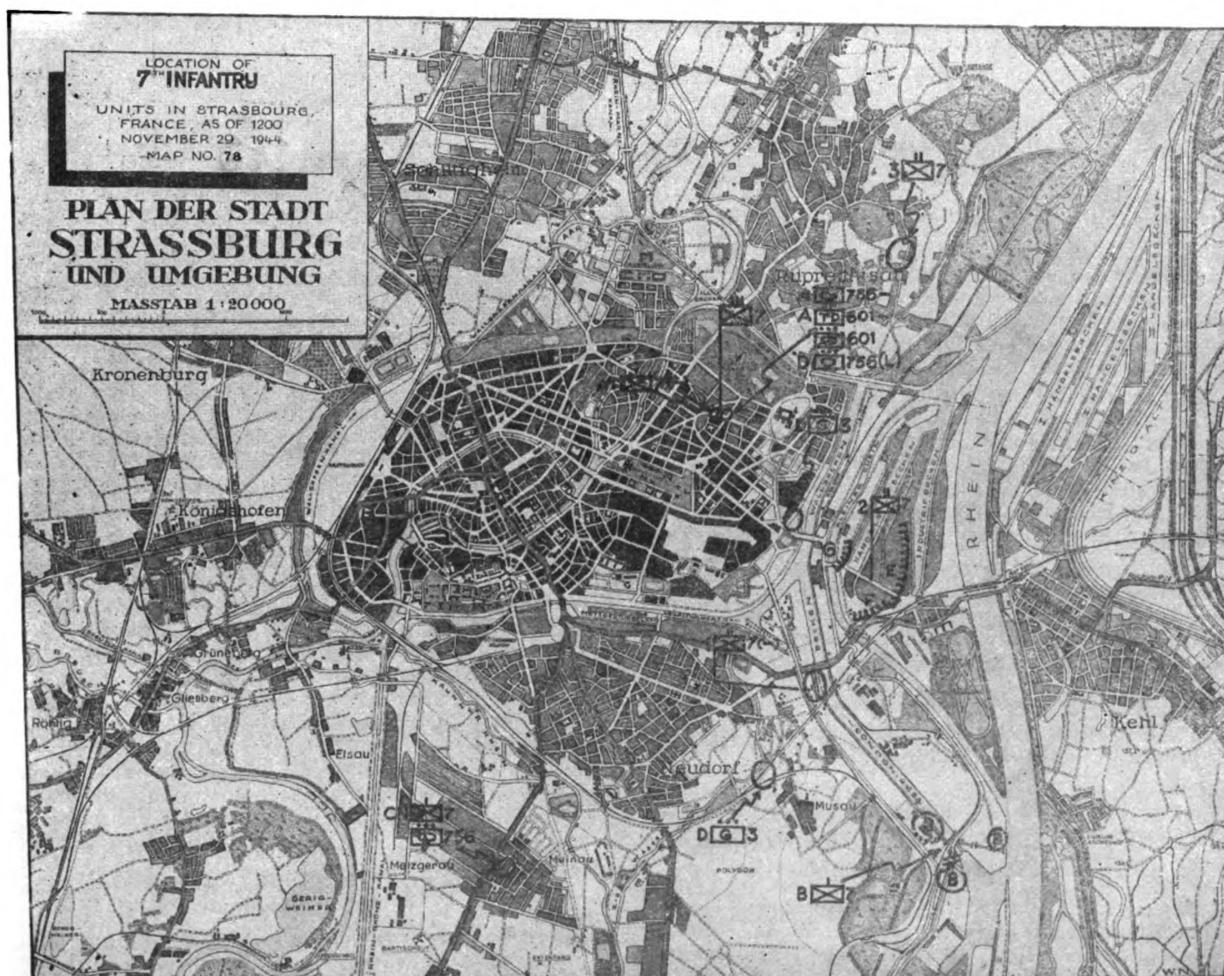
After two attempts to cross the railroad bridge spanning Le Petit Rhin, or Kleiner Rhine, had been thwarted by intense fire from three enemy machine guns and an

estimated company of riflemen, Captain Gerald A. Desrosier of First Battalion Headquarters organized and directed a third and highly successful attempt. Despite bursting mortar shells and machine gun fire, he led an assault platoon to the bridge and directed the troops across. The men then overran the enemy positions, knocked out six machine guns and three mortars, killed and wounded 19 enemy, captured 37 and drove the remainder back.⁹⁷

At 0645 on 1 December the Second Battalion jumped off in the attack to clean out the apartment houses. Contact was made with the enemy and a heavy small arms fight was had.

At about 1030 hours Sergeant John J. Kelly of Company "F" elected to give his life to destroy an enemy machine gun position. Ordering his decimated and weary squad to follow him, Sergeant Kelly charged across 75 yards of flat, exposed terrain toward an enemy strongpoint in and around a public building. When ankle-high, grazing machine gun fire inflicted multiple wounds on both of his legs, Sergeant Kelly continued to stagger forward, although only one man of his squad followed, for an additional 35 yards. Advancing through the machine gun fire, he reached a platform 25 yards from his objective and took cover behind it. When his assistant requested permission to fire a rifle grenade at the German

⁹⁷ GO No. 89, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Mar. '45. Capt. Desrosier was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



machine gun emplacement, Sergeant Kelly refused on the grounds that the risk was too great. Although every movement he made was a signal for a fresh burst of machine gun fire and renewed sniper activity, Sergeant Kelly pulled the pin of a hand grenade and, rising on his wounded legs to a standing position, hurled it into the German position 25 yards away. As he fell back mortally wounded by machine gun fire, his hand grenade exploded, destroying the gun position and the two-man German crew. Refusing to allow his assistant to give him aid, he again urged his squad to move forward in the attack. As his men charged into the German strongpoint, killing four and capturing one of the enemy, Sergeant Kelly died. For his extraordinary heroism in action that day he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁹⁸

A large direct fire weapon across the railroad yard commenced shooting at the "Cotton Balers" and shook the whole peninsula when it fired. Progress was slow in the morning but the Second Battalion troops captured eleven enemy.

The Second Battalion fought the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" with a determined enemy who barricaded themselves in the buildings and spotted them with snipers. Using bazookas and armor, holes were punched in the buildings through which the "doggies" rushed to clear out building after building. The fighting became severe as Private First Class Carl W. Young, Privates Dale Carson, Rodolfo G. Cruz, Gaston J. Foussard and Jack B. Huff all of "Easy" Company, Private First Class Class Ellis N. Lee and Private Clifford E. Lombardo of "Fox" Company and Private First Class Calvert Johnson of "George" Company were killed by sniper's bullets.

Meanwhile Company "C" reached the northern section of the Hippodrome against machine gun fire. "Able" Company joined the attack. Company "G" of the 30th Infantry became attached to the Regiment and furnished reserve for the Red Battalion. "Baker" Company held the electric plant.

Late in the afternoon the enemy set off a series of demolitions which destroyed all three bridges over the Rhine. A big gun believed to be a large railway gun in Kehl, fired direct onto the islands and peninsulas and rocked them with the big explosions.

At about 2100 the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" was at an end as the Second Battalion controlled all the buildings. During the night and early morning of 2 December, the White Battalion cleared the peninsula between the Bassin de L'Industrie or Industriebecken and the Rhine River, while "Able" and "Charlie" Companies cleaned the Hippodrome and advanced to the Rhine.

For bravery displayed during the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" and in wiping out the Kehl Bridgehead the following named enlisted men of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment were cited: Privates First Class John T. Clayton, Milton E. Colon, Julius Fuller and Henry J. Rosinski, all of Company "C"; Private First Class James R. Snyder and Private Orville Hobbs of Company "E", and Sergeants Steve Gavron, Fred A. Krizan and Alton A. Leonard, Jr., all of Company "F".⁹⁹

COLONEL HARRELL LEAVES THE REGIMENT AND LIEUTENANT COLONEL IZENOUR ASSUMES COMMAND

Shortly after the "Battle of the Apartment Houses" ended and Seventh Infantry troops took up their first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II, Colonel Ben Harrell departed from the Seventh Infantry to report at

Seventh Army Headquarters in Epinal, France. He was to eventually become G-3 of the American Fifth Army in Italy under General Lucian K. Truscott who succeeded General Mark W. Clark.

The veteran Lieutenant Colonel Frank M. Izenour assumed command of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Having led the First Battalion through the last phase of the Sicilian Campaign, across the swollen Volturno in Southern Italy, onto the Anzio Beachhead where he was wounded and evacuated on that bloody day of 30 January 1944, and where he returned to lead the Red Battalion out of the Beachhead into Cisterna di Littoria



Colonel Ben Harrell commanded the Seventh United States Infantry from 22 August to 2 December 1944, in France, and then jumped to the position of G-3, Fifth United States Army in Italy, which position he held until September 1945. Before he assumed command of the Regiment he had served as its S-4 and S-3 from 1940 to 1942, as G-3, Third Infantry Division from 1942 to 1944, and G-3, American VI Corps from February to August 1944. He graduated from the United States Military Academy with the Class of 1933.

and in triumph and glory into Rome, the Eternal City, on 4 June, which was one of his greatest days, and on 15 August onto the beaches of Southern France then on the dash up the beautiful Rhone River Valley, before he assumed the duties of Regimental Executive Officer on 15 September, he was indeed a capable successor to the long line of able men who have commanded the famous Seventh Infantry.

Lieutenant Colonel Izenour was born on 6 October 1913 in New Brighton, Pennsylvania. He received his early education in the public schools of Mansfield, Ohio, and attended Ashland College before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, from the State of Ohio. He graduated from the Army's officer training

⁹⁸ For authority see GO 83, Hq. 7th Army, 8 Mar. 1945.

⁹⁹ GOs No. 13, 35, 70, 113, 171 & 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 13 Jan., 4 & 26 Feb., 29 Mar., 22 May & 25 June '45. Sgts. Gavron, Krizan & Leonard, Pfc Clayton, Colon, Fuller, Rosinski & Snyder & Pvt. Hobbs were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

institution with the class of 1938. His first assignment as a second lieutenant was with a machine gun company of the 13th Infantry Regiment. He later commanded Company "L" of that regiment before commanding Company "K" of the 33rd Infantry in the Panama Canal Zone. His first service with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was as commanding officer of "King" Company in the States. He then served as executive officer of the Third Battalion, 30th Infantry, until he returned to the Seventh Infantry. He commanded the Third Battalion from 1 June to 4 July 1943. He first assumed command of the First Battalion on 25 July 1943. His gallantry in actions and outstanding service had merited awards to him of the Silver Star Medal and Legion of Merit Award.

That afternoon a group of American bombers winged their way over Strasbourg for German targets but were intercepted by eighteen enemy Messerschmidts and were forced to drop their loads, which fortunately for the "Cotton Balers" and people of Strasbourg, fell east of the Rhine. While the First and Second Battalion wiped out the Kehl bridgehead the Third Battalion performed the special task of guarding intelligence targets in the city of Strasbourg as prescribed by Seventh Army and the Sixth Army Group Headquarters. Some of the places put under guard included an amphibious motor vehicle plant, an important naval munitions experimental plant, and the notorious laboratory at the University of Strasbourg, whose doctors were accused of performing experiments with poison gas and disease cultures on living humans.



Major Glenn E. Rathbun commanded the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 25 May to 22 June 1944, and from 3 October to 4 December 1944 when he was seriously wounded and evacuated.

The Third Battalion was relieved of guard duties at the Physics Building, Adolf Kosmier, Matford Factory, Hotel De Ville and the Pioneer Gasno by Company "A" on 2 December, then commenced relief of the Second

Battalion and Company "C", of defensive positions on the west bank of the Rhine during the night of 2-3 December which was completed at 0100. Company "B" remained in defensive positions at the electric plant while Company "C" reverted to a mobile reserve held at a warehouse building just west of the Bassin Vauban. A gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company went into position near the point between the Bassin Vauban and Le Petit Rhin.

The Second Battalion moved by truck and assembled in the vicinity of Robertsau in north Strasbourg then sent Company "G" to man machine gun and listening posts from the point between the Bassin des Petroles and the Rhine, north along the west bank of the river.

On 3 December the First Battalion took on additional guarding duties. A signal dump and several hundred railway boxcars were protected from looters. Company "G", of the 30th Infantry, was relieved of attachment. The Mine Platoon of Anti-Tank Company continued to guard the laboratories at Fort Ney north of Strasbourg.

During the night Captain Cook of Company "A", 10th Engineers, and members of his company reconnoitered positions along the Rhine in the Third Battalion sector for wire laying.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL IZENOUR AND MAJOR RATHBUN ARE BOTH SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

On 4 December Captain Cook accompanied by one of his platoon leaders called at the Regimental Command Post to talk over plans for wire laying, with Lieutenant Colonel Izenour. The Commanding Officer took the engineers to the Third Battalion Command Post where Major Glenn E. Rathbun joined the group and they went on to observation posts in the apartment houses where visual inspections of positions along the Rhine could be made. After formulating plans for laying the tactical wire the group commenced the return journey. After passing under the railroad overpass the group made its way up the street toward the bridge over Le Petit Rhin when an artillery shell was heard whizzing through the air from the direction of friendly positions. Thinking the shell was on its way to Kehl no one jumped for cover but to the dismay of all it landed in the street not far away from the group of officers. Fragments seriously wounded Lieutenant Colonel Izenour and Major Rathbun but the engineer officers escaped uninjured. Lieutenant Colonel Izenour received a bad wound in the thigh which tore away most of the flesh but Major Rathbun received even a more serious wound. A fragment entered the Third Battalion commander's left ear, gouged out his left eye and ruined the sight of his right eye. By a miracle he lived and was evacuated with Lieutenant Colonel Izenour.

Lieutenant Colonel Clayton C. Thobro then temporarily assumed command of the Regiment as Captain Robert D. Marsh and Captain Ralph M. Flynn temporarily assumed command of the Second and Third Battalions respectively.

Both sides exchanged artillery and mortar fire throughout the remainder of the day with the enemy chucking in heavy stuff from a gun estimated to be of 240mm calibre and fires were started in the Strasbourg gas works by the enemy shelling.

Members of the Battle Patrol were fired on again during the night of 4-5 December as patrols were conducted throughout the city. Two shots penetrated a jeep. The Engineers went ahead with their plans for tactical wire laying and laid triple concertina wire from the bridges north to the tip of the peninsula.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HEINTGES ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

On 5 December Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges, a former "Cotton Baler", and a soldier all his life, returned to the Regiment he loved so well, and assumed command.

John Arnold Heintges was born in Coblenz, Germany, on 9 December 1912. During the First World War his father and three uncles served in the German army while one uncle served with the French Army, another with the American army and a sixth uncle remained neutral in Sweden. His father was killed in action on the Russian front in 1915.

At the age of nine the future commander of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was brought to the United States by his mother, who married an American Army officer. His first year of high school education was received at Columbus High School, Columbus, Georgia, then while his step-father served at Fort McKinley on Great Diamond Island in Casco Bay, Maine, he attended Portland High School for his sophomore and junior years and sold newspapers in his spare time. His senior year studies were made in Alaska and in 1930 he graduated from Haines High School, Haines, Alaska. He spent nine months in the hard north country with the Forest



Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges who commanded the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, from 4 July to 18 November 1943, and from 24 February to 4 March 1944, assumed command of the Regiment on 5 December 1944.

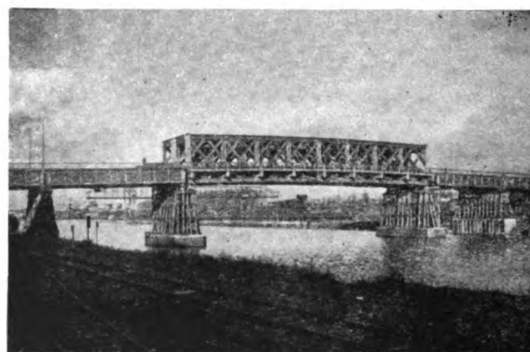
Service and a year more with the Presbyterian Mission, but all the while kept his eye on West Point, which was his goal. He then returned to the States, prepped at Stanton in New York, took the competitive examinations for West Point and realized his ambition by entering the United States Military Academy from Maine, and graduated with the class of 1936.

The first assignment for Second Lieutenant John A. Heintges was with the old 5th Infantry at Fort Williams, Maine, for a period of about six months. He then went to the Philippines and served two years with the 45th Infantry, Philippine Scouts. Returning to the States once more he served with the 24th Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia. While there he took the regular Infantry course and communications course at the Infantry School. He was assigned to the 18th Infantry, First Division, and engaged in the Louisiana maneuvers. His next assignment was to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to help re-

activate the 13th Infantry as a company commander and later as regimental S-3. In time he returned to the Infantry School and served as an assistant director of training. He was promoted to the rank of First Lieutenant on 12 June 1939, to that of Captain on 9 September 1940, to that of Major on 1 February 1942 and to that of Lieutenant Colonel on 6 January 1943.

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges received assignment in 1943 to the First Division overseas but was sidetracked by Fifth Army to help establish the Battle Training Center in North Africa. He was transferred to the Third Infantry Division in June 1943 and assumed command of the Third Battalion, Seventh Infantry, two days prior to embarkation for Sicily. Though placed in command just a few days prior to invasion, he was nevertheless well prepared to command, having worked with the Division G-3 Section, and was thoroughly familiar with all plans of action and the island to be invaded.

Through Sicily, South Italy and on the Anzio Beachhead, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges distinguished himself as an outstanding leader and was the anchor man of the highly regarded Izenour-Duvall-Heintges combination of commanders. He left the Seventh Infantry while on the Anzio Beachhead to serve again with the Third Division G-3 Section, then on 2 June 1944 he became executive officer of the 30th Infantry Regiment, in which capacity he served until he returned to the Seventh Infantry on 5 December 1944. While serving with the "Friscan" Regiment he had garnered new honors to those already won with the Seventh Infantry, and was awarded the Legion of Merit for exceptionally meritorious services and the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in actual combat. In the days to come he was to prove himself a most able and worthy successor to the great line of commanders of the Seventh Infantry down through the years.

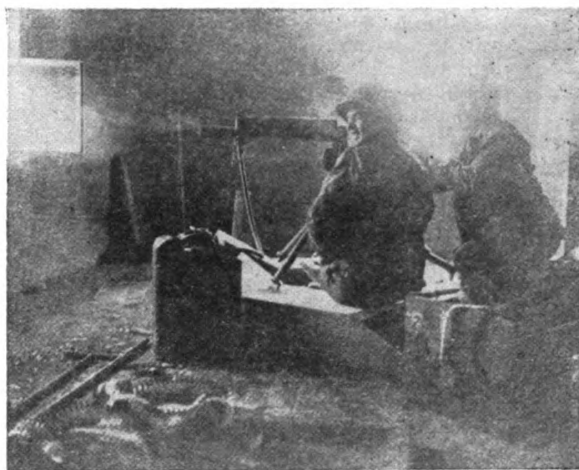


One of the bridges over Le Petit Rhin in Strasbourg, France.

On 6 December Major Jack M. Duncan assumed command of the Second Battalion while Major Richard T. Young assumed the duties of Regimental S-3. Captain Kenneth E. Browneller became S-1. Captain Flynn continued to command the Third Battalion until 16 December when Captain Robert V. Horton commanded for a short while before Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey returned to his old command on 20 December.

During the period 2 to 20 December 1944 the Seventh Infantry maintained its "Watch on the Rhine", policed and guarded Strasbourg. It was the second time that "Cotton Balers" had taken up a watch on the west bank of the great river, the first time being in World War I.

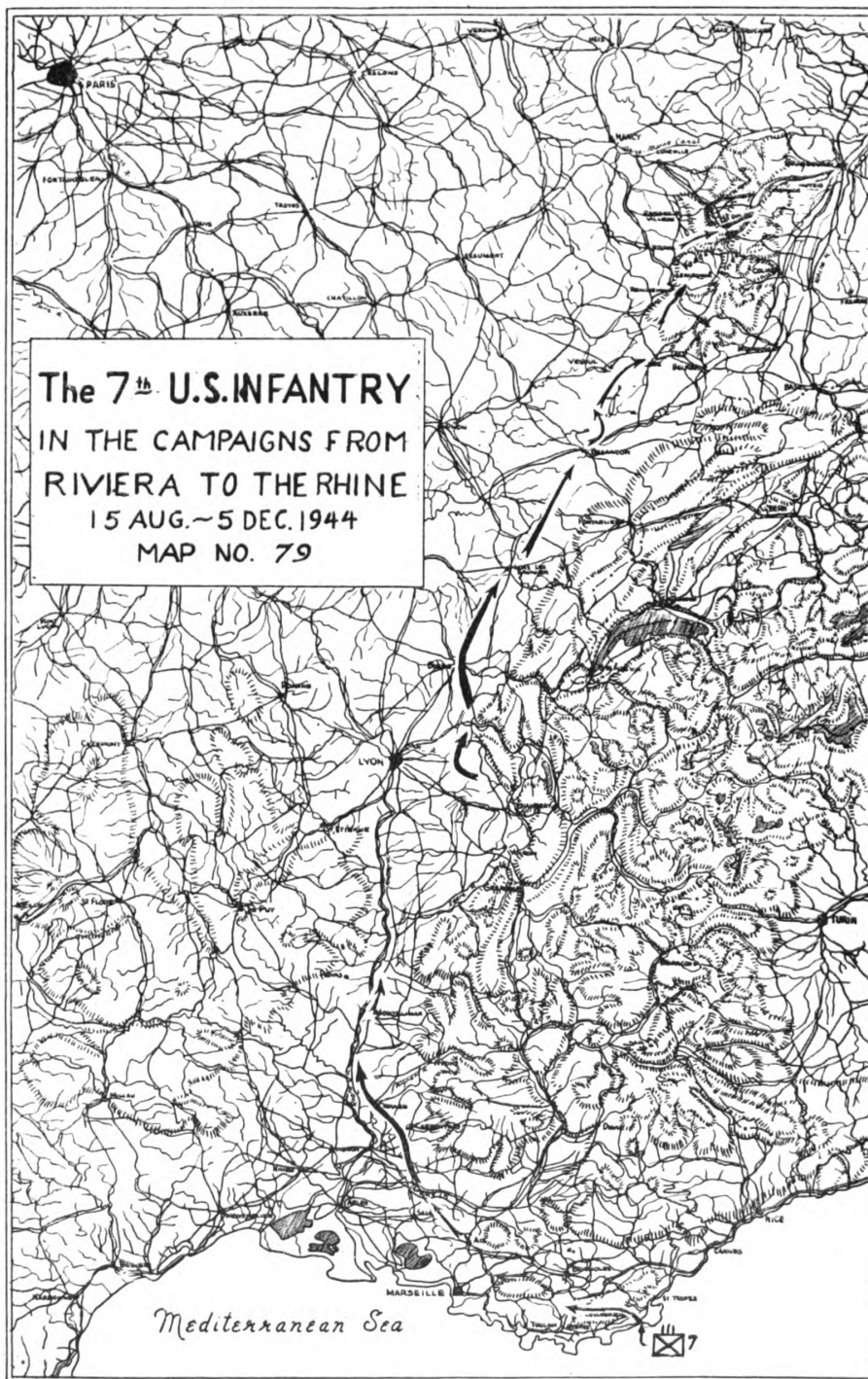
Strasbourg, where the "Cotton Balers" took up the Second "Watch on the Rhine", had once been a great



Top photos show a "Cotton Baler" sniper and machine gunners firing at enemy across the Rhine from locations in factory buildings and apartment houses in the water front district of Strasbourg. Center photos show mortar men at work. Lower left photo shows how Strasbourg looked from the air. The famous cathedral stands out above all other buildings in the city. Lower right photo shows shells exploding in Kehl, Germany.

gateway for people visiting south Germany, Switzerland and Austria. "Cotton Balers" found it suffering only little from the lightning thrust of the Second French Armored Division. Some sectors where the Nazis had set up Gestapo and other headquarters had been badly damaged, however, by American bomber planes. The dominating feature of Strasbourg is its beautiful and world famous cathedral, an architectural beauty long a must for sightseers. Its graceful, beautiful spire pointing straight upward, rises above all other buildings in the city and

may be seen for miles throughout the country. The Nazis had stolen the beautiful stained glass of the windows and shipped them off to Germany. The famous clock with images of the Twelve Apostles could not be seen. Unfortunately the Cathedral had been hit twice by American bombs and large holes gaped in the dome. All benches and seats had been removed from the cathedral as no services had been held there for four long years due to the ban placed by Nazis authorities. Shortly after the Second French Armored Division had liberated the



city private services were held for the French General Jacques Le Clerc but on Friday morning, 8 December 1944, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the first public services were held with Catholic Chaplain Ralph Smith of Third Infantry Division, assisted by the Seventh Infantry Catholic Chaplain, Captain Raymond E. Vint, officiating. Nearly 3000 Catholic soldiers from the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantries and other organizations were trucked to the vicinity of the Cathedral and attended the Mass.

Strasbourg is a city of islands on islands caused by the Ill River, Le Petit Rhin, the Rhine and the several canals which connect them. The innermost island which is the center of the old city is caused by the Ill River dividing into two branches, which rejoin about 2000 yards to the northeast. The Rhine-Marne Canal crosses the Ill River in the northern sector of the city while the Rhine-Rhone Canal comes up from the south to join the Ill. The Breusch River joins the Ill from the west. The City of Strasbourg in peacetime contained large factories for producing machinery, locomotives, electrical equipment, flour, textiles, chemicals and shipyards. The Port of Strasbourg, a river port, was rated as one of the leading ports of France with an annual capacity of ten million tons. In spite of the many allied bombings the city was generally in good shape and there was no general devastation.

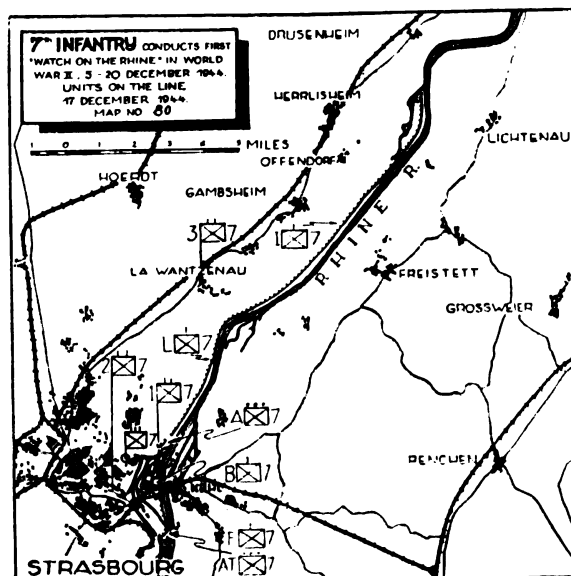
When the "Cotton Balers" entered Strasbourg they did not receive a rousing welcome such as they received in Casablanca, Rome, the Eternal City, or in the many cities and villages of southern France. It was estimated that there were about 10,000 enemy aliens in the city who were being rounded up by the French gendarmes, American military police, security forces, and the French Forces of the Interior, then sent to internment camps to the rear. Some German soldiers had remained in the city but were quickly rounded up. The people of Strasbourg were quiet and orderly. They played a conservative game. They took no chances in welcoming the Americans with open arms for fear the Germans might return. Though for the most part Strasbourg is a German speaking city, most of its citizens like to think of it as neither French or German, but Alsatian. In a few days as the people came to know that the Allies were there to stay, the streets became bedecked with the French Tricolor and the American Stars and Stripes. The people became more friendly. The "Cotton Balers," experts at fraternization as well as fighting, came to like Strasbourg even better than many other places they had visited.

After the Seventh Infantry wiped out the Kehl bridgehead all the remaining civilians living in the basements of the apartments and warehouses were evacuated from the port area. Lying alongside many of the docks were stranded river barges many of which had been damaged by bombings. Four of the craft were Dutch which had operated from Rotterdam, up and down the Rhine. The crews and several families still occupied them after about two months. When the "Cotton Balers" put on their attack to clean out the bridgehead, for a time these people found themselves floating somewhat uneasily in a no man's waterland. They were brought in to the prisoner of war interrogation cage for questioning. When it was discovered that their true identity was Rotterdam Dutch rather than Kraut Dutch they were evacuated to points of safety.

From 2 to 11 December 1944 the Regiment manned and improved its defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine in the port of Strasbourg. The battalions alternated the tasks of occupying the defensive positions, guarding vital targets in the city, or resting in reserve.

"Cotton Balers" occupying the defensive positions got their first views of the enemy's formidable Siegfried Line positions on the east bank of the Rhine, at and near Kehl. There the Rhine, a mighty barrier in itself, was defended by heavy casemates at intervals of approximately 100 to 300 yards, built into the face of the bank. The level open terrain behind the river was studded with pillboxes and casemates covering all roads and streams and formed a complete interwoven pattern of fire. Numerous communication and fire trenches linked the various units of the system. Some wire and a few anti-tank ditches were used toward the river, near or bordering on the wooded areas.

On 11 December 1944 the regiment extended its defensive line along the west bank of the Rhine to the north by assuming responsibility and control of the sector held by the 117th Reconnaissance Squadron, north of Gambenheim. The Third Battalion reinforced with one platoon of Anti-Tank Company, one platoon of Company "A," 756th Tank Battalion, one platoon of Company "B," 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, relieved the Cavalrymen. Companies "I" and "L" were placed on the line



along the river and Company "K" was held in mobile reserve. Battery "B" of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion supported the Third Battalion in its sector and Cannon Company moved to supporting positions.

On 17 December the Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol became attached to the Regiment and relieved Troop "A" of the 94th Reconnaissance Squadron of positions in Gambenheim, Offendorf, Herrlisheim, Rohrwiler and Drusenheim to further lengthen out the sector of Seventh Infantry responsibility to the north.

During its closing days in the first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II harassing fire was exchanged with the enemy with machine guns, mortars and artillery. In the northern sector held by the attached troops, the Third Reconnaissance Troops had a skirmish with a small number of enemy who crossed the Rhine by boat. Rumor was rife among the civilians that the enemy was to recross the Rhine in force north of Strasbourg and advance on the city. The Seventh Infantry was ready for any move the enemy might decide to make. A platoon of Company "L" and the Intelligence Platoon of Third Battalion Headquarters moved to Gambenheim to support

the Third Reconnaissance Troop. Company "C" was alerted and held in readiness to move immediately to repel any enemy threat. Supporting artillery was particularly active during the hours of darkness and harassed enemy positions on the east bank of the river. Patrols were alert for possible enemy parachute drops.

An enemy spy was taken in Strasbourg whose mission

it was to note the reaction of the people of the city to the Allies and report on any propaganda posted in the city. Another spy was detected on the west bank of the Rhine about to escape by a boat manned by enemy who had come from Kehl to pick him up. The spy was seriously wounded and the enemy boat riddled by machine gun fire until it sank with its occupants, who were killed.



The winners of the Silver Star Medal shown above are: (1) Pfc. T. J. Rice, Co. "K", posthumously, (2) Pfc. J. C. Babincsak, Co. "H", (3) Cpl. L. R. Grimes, 1 Bn. Hq. Co., (4) Sgt. E. Hudspeth, Co. "H", (5) Sgt. S. Reno, Co. "K", (6) 1 Sgt. B. V. Reynolds, "Co. "G", (7) 2 Lt. E. G. Johnson, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (8) 2 Lt. J. C. Lynch, Co. "C", (9) 2 Lt. W. M. Rice, Co. "C", (10) 2 Lt. C. K. Seifarth, Regtl. B.P., (11) 2 Lt. J. C. Jernigan, A.T. Co., (12) 2 Lt. J. B. Lehman, Co. "L", (13) 1 Lt. D. J. Lostumbo, Co. "L", (14) 1 Lt. P. V. McGhan, Co. "K", posthumously, (15) 1 Lt. H. J. Mondelli, Co. "I", (16) 1 Lt. W. S. Van Wey, Co. "M", (17) Capt. A. Brown, Co. "A", (18) Capt. C. A. Peterson, Co. "A", (19) Capt. W. B. Stewart, Co. "C", (20) Capt. J. F. Powell, Co. "E", (21) Capt. M. D. Biggers, Co. "K", (22) Capt. F. Petruzzi, Co. "K", (23) Capt. J. W. Blaikie, Co. "K", (24) Capt. R. J. Yates, Co. "L", (25) Capt. R. M. Flynn, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (26) Capt. P. E. Rowe, M.D., (27) Lt. Col. E. W. Duval, C.O. 2d Bn., (28) Capt. R. L. Kerr, Co. "B". Five members of the Rgt who received the medal from Lt. Gen. M. W. Clark on 15 Jan. 1944 in the Piano di Quarto area, near Naples, Italy, are shown in the lower strip of photos. Left to right they are: Pfc. E. Snead, Co. "C"; Cpl. A. Stoessel, Co. "D"; 2 Lt. V. D. Reynolds, Co. "A"; 1 Lt. M. F. Smith, A.T. Co.; and Lt. Col. R. E. Moore, R.F. 8 S.

PART SIX

The Colmar Pocket Campaign

(21 DECEMBER 1944—18 FEBRUARY 1945)

CHAPTER I

Defense

When the Seventh Infantry reached the Rhine River in early December 1944, eliminated the Germans' Kehl bridgehead in Strasbourg, Alsace, and set up its first "Watch on the Rhine" in World War II, it and other units of the Third Infantry Division and the Second French Armored Division were approximately eighty miles farther east than units of any other Allied division on the entire Western Front.

Up north American and Allied forces were surprised and very seriously threatened by a Christmas offensive launched by the German Field Marshal Gerd Von Rundstedt, that broke through and overran front line units and created a huge bulge in Allied territory in Belgium and Luxembourg, and threatened to extend into France.

To the south of Strasbourg the Germans held a bridgehead west of the Rhine River, in Alsace, which they referred to as "Bridgehead Alsace" but which the Americans and French referred to as the "Colmar Pocket", named after the Alsatian city Colmar, which was occupied by the enemy. When the American Seventh Army had broken through the Vosges to reach the Rhine River at Strasbourg and the First French Army came up on its right, the enemy who had not retreated across the Rhine were compressed around the city of Colmar. The enemy decided to hold on to Colmar and set up strong defensive positions in the Vosges Mountains to the west of the city. The Rhine Plain in Alsace between the Vosges Mountains and the great river is cut by numerous rivers and streams and has an elaborate system of canals. The enemy used these water barriers to protect his bridgehead from attacks either from the north or south. His main escape route was by the bridges over the Rhine between Neuf-Brisach and Vieux Brisach. The First French Army had applied considerable pressure against the enemy's lines but had failed to penetrate them. The result was that the German lines surrounding Colmar became a virtual ring of steel as the enemy emplaced himself in the most strategic positions the mountain studded region, rivers and canals afforded.

The German 19th Army which had been punched from the Riviera to the Rhine, reeling under heavy blows received from Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch's Seventh American Army on the coast of Southern France, at Montelimar, Besancon, and in the Vosges Mountains, defended the bridgehead. The enemy soldiers were weary from their many battles but were still full of fight. The following is a translation of an article which appeared in *Die Wacht*, the newspaper of the

German 19th Army, on 15 December 1944, concerning the bridgehead and the condition of the German soldiers at that time.

"BRIDGEHEAD ALSACE"

Around the time when the golden-yellow and bluish-black grapes dropped from the vines, cut by the vintners, and when, late in the evenings, carts loaded down with full barrels, rumbled over the uneven streets of the small Alsatian villages, the war seemed to be still far away, even though the autumn wind brought with it the thunder of the guns from the west, over the peaks of the Vosges and from the plains of the Burgundy Gate. As they had always done, the toy-like houses lay perched against the vineyards. Only the people who live here, with faces more serious than they usually displayed, listened towards France, along the border strip of which the front line now took its course, now that the German divisions, after their disengaging move from Southern France, had dug themselves into the ground once more.

Late autumn storms had swept the last remaining leaves from the trees and the vines offered a confused picture of brown, bald sticks. It was during those days that the war with its fast movements—with which one always has to figure in this time of motorized warfare—took the jump into Alsace. The American thrust to Strasbourg in the North and the penetration of French Colonial troops to Hueningen (Huningue) in the South formed the new front line which can best be described by the term "Bridgehead Alsace". In order to guess the further intentions of the Americans and Colonial French, one did not have to be in the possession of a great deal of strategical knowledge, nor did one have to work through Clausewitz's book "About War". The plain doughboy in his foxhole knew it as well as the artillery man at his gun, the ack-ack boy mentioned it just as the guy in the TD or on the assault gun, and the civilians in all the villages and little towns whispered it to each other: "Now the Americans will push south, the Colonial French will press north from Huningue and they'll meet in Colmar, maybe, or somewhere on the Rhine between the Vosges and the Black Forest." The names of Schlettstadt (Selestat) and Mulhouse which soon appeared in the news from the front only served as nourishment for all these suppositions.

But while the people of this country sit together on the long evenings and still try to figure things out, the German soldier in Alsace fights one of the toughest defensive battles. Up on the crests of the Vosges the western-most positions are covered by the deep snow, enveloped in the bitter cold, and from there, through the lowlands of the Rhine Plain, continue the row of foxholes which since weeks have been filled to the brim with water by the pouring rain.

For days and weeks they have had no rest and they have simply dropped the word "relief" from their vocabulary a long time ago. Their uniforms hardly ever get dry, and they are yellowish from the mud and dirt. Their sleep they have to steal, bit by bit, minutes, sometimes seconds, at a time. Yes, this Alsatian soil, once again in its war-rich history, experiences anew a miracle, the miracle of the German grenadier. In every squad yawns many a painful gap, but the ones who survive get to-

gether more closely, fight all the more stubbornly against barges and dive-bombers, against tanks, Shermans, Renaults, Churchills, and against Infantry. None of those who try to assault the German main line of resistance would still have the nerves and force to resist, if they should have had to go through the same things the German grenadiers had to experience during the last weeks. And this is the miracle which cannot be explained by words, and certainly not by some nice phrases. In the December days of the sixth year of war a new part of German history and heroism is being written here in Alsace, and sealed with the blood of many German soldiers.

Here fight the divisions of that army which has once already been declared dead by the enemy, when it battled open its way from the Mediterranean through the Rhone Valley with the doggedness and force which cannot be measured by ordinary standards, since it exceeds everything which can normally be expected from strength.¹

Though the enemy was weary from long fighting he was powerful enough to launch savage counter-attacks at forces that sought to eliminate his bridgehead. The First French Army encountered considerable resistance in all its zones. Early in the month of December 1944 the enemy struck fiercely at the Second French Armored Division, and at the American 36th Infantry Division, which was fighting under French command then. Then the enemy struck twice against the south flank of the First French Army just west of Mulhouse. The enemy was determined to hold the bridgehead. On 17 December, it was believed the Germans held nine nominal divisions in the "Colmar Pocket" with the bulk of three opposing the American 36th Infantry Division, namely the 16th and 716th Infantry Divisions and the 189th Volks Grenadier Division, and possibly, substantial elements of the 198th Infantry Division.

7TH INFANTRY QUITS ITS "WATCH ON THE RHINE" AND MOVES TO THE FRINGE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET"

During the afternoon and evening of 20 December 1944 the Third Battalion (reinforced), Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol were relieved of their defensive positions along the Rhine River north of Strasbourg by the Second Battalion, 143rd Infantry. The Seventh Infantry Cannon and Anti-Tank Companies were relieved by respective units of the 143rd Infantry during the same period.

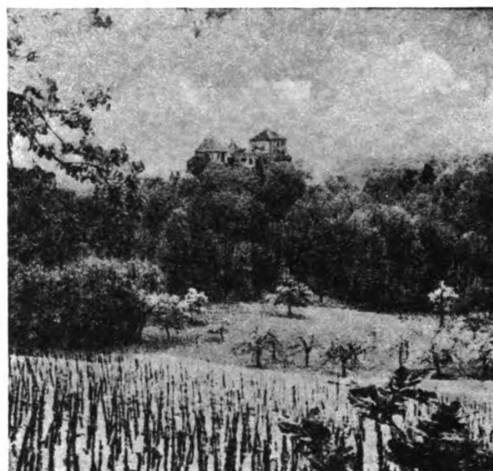
At 0830 on 21 December the Third Battalion (reinforced), Cannon Company, Anti-Tank Company, Regimental Headquarters Company, Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, Service Company Train, Company "A", 10th Engineers, and Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, crossed the initial point established by Third Division Headquarters in Entzheim, and moved by a route marked by military police through Goxwiller, Epfig, Blienschwiller, Dambach-la-Ville, Chatenois and St. Hippolyte and closed into the vicinity of Bergheim at 1030. The Regimental Company Post established itself in the Chateau de Reichenberg about 1500 yards to the northwest of Bergheim.

Relief during daylight hours of as many elements as possible of the 142nd Infantry was accomplished. Companies "I" and "L" completed relief of Companies "E" and "F" of the 142nd Infantry in Rorschwihr and Guemar. Company "K" waited until darkness to relieve Company "G" of the "Texan" Regiment in the part of Ostheim west of La Fecht River. The greater part of the town east of the river was in enemy hands.

Anti-Tank Company relieved its namesake company of the 142nd Infantry and placed a gun platoon in position by Road Junction 181. The Mine Platoon went

into position near Ganzimatti Ferme. The remainder of the company took up positions by Cross Roads 177, east of the Station de St. Hippolyte or Hirtengaerten as called on German maps.

Company "A", 10th Engineers, moved into St. Hippolyte, as Cannon Company occupied positions near Orschwiller. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, which followed the first serial, put Batteries "A" and "B" into positions near Bergheim and Battery "C" near Orschwiller.



The Seventh Infantry Command Post was located in the Chateau de Reichenberg from 21 to 29 December 1944.

Meanwhile the First and Second Battalions were completely relieved of their Rhine River positions in Strasbourg by the Third Battalion, 143rd Infantry, and moved tactically by vehicle over the same route used by the Third Battalion and other units. The First Battalion troops detrucked a little south of Ribeauville at 1630, then marched to the vicinity of Beblenheim and commenced relief of 142nd Infantry units, and completed the work at 2130. Company "A" occupied a line from Mittelwihr to the chateau 900 yards northeast. Company "C" continued the line to the northeast, nearly to Road Junction 190, near which Company "B" established a road block with one platoon. Company "B" also established an outpost about 1000 yards east on the road to Ostheim, and conducted patrols during the night but held the greater part of the company in battalion reserve on the east edge of Beblenheim.

The Second Battalion which closed into Ribeauville at 1730 constituted Third Division reserve. Company "G" established three blocks that day then added two more the next, all around Ribeauville.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol was attached to the Third Battalion and every two hours sent out motor patrols from its location in Kientzheim to Selestat to contact the Second French Armored Division, flanking the Regiment on the north, then back through the various Third Battalion units. The 15th Infantry occupied positions to the south of the Regiment. Company "C" of the 99th Chemical Battalion became attached to the Regiment and furnished support.

¹ Annex "C" to G-2 Periodic Report No. 144, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 7 Jan. '45.

THE 7TH INFANTRY OCCUPIES DEFENSIVE POSITIONS 21 DECEMBER 1944— 19 JANUARY 1945

Actually what had happened on 20-21 December 1944 was that the Third Infantry or "Rock of the Marne" Division, which had fought as a unit of the American Seventh Army since the invasion of southern France, had exchanged positions with the 36th Infantry or "Texan" Division. For the new campaign, in which the Seventh Infantry Regiment was to play a prominent role in the assault, the Third Infantry Division was to operate as a unit of the First French Army under the supreme command of General d'Armee Jean Joseph Gabriel de Lattre de Tassigny.

The First French Army with the Second French Armored Division as a principal striking arm was made up mostly of colonial troops such as the Goumiers, Algerians, Marocs, Senegalese, Spahis and French Foreign Legion. The French armor was greatly handicapped and limited in its operations in the "Colmar Pocket" due to the many rivers and the elaborate system of canals, which presented barriers. The French Colonial Infantry troops long known as excellent mountain fighters, nevertheless, lacked the experience, training and equipment to assault across rivers and water barriers. And that was the reason why the versatile Third Infantry Division, expert at amphibious operations as well as mountain and desert fighting, was on loan to the French general, to spearhead the drive that was to eliminate the pocket.

For the first month while in the "Colmar Pocket" the Seventh Infantry held two separate defensive positions. During the first night in the first defensive position the Seventh Infantry units on the line conducted aggressive patrols as well as the usual contact patrols. One patrol of Company "L" moved east from Guemar toward Illhausen, and succeeded in surprising and capturing three enemy who manned a machine gun.

On 22 December the Regimental Battle Patrol sent a daylight patrol to the Junghurst Maison Ferme near L'Ill River but failed to contact the enemy. The Battle Patrol relieved the Anti-Tank Mine Platoon at Ganzmatti Ferme with a seven-man outpost group.

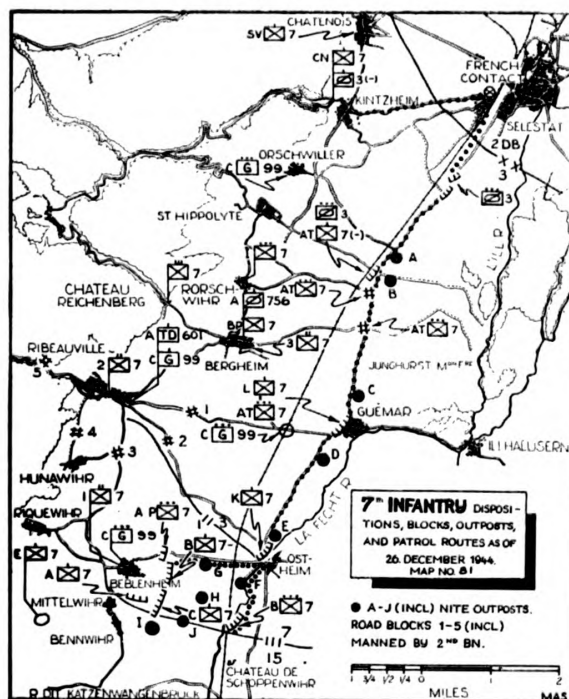
During the night of 22-23 December Company "B" moved one platoon to a position on the west bank of La Fecht River due east from Mittelwihr. A series of ten listening posts were established and operated each night thereafter.

The following morning the First Battalion advanced its line a few hundred yards to conform with the advance of the 15th Infantry on the south, which was staging a limited objective attack for the Third Infantry Division to capture Sigolsheim and Bennwihr and to clear Hill 351, which is located between the two towns.

Until 29 December the Seventh Regiment continued to hold its defensive positions with the First and Third Battalions, Anti-Tank Company and the Third Reconnaissance Troop on the line from the position east of Mittelwihr on La Fecht River, north through Ostheim and Guemar to Selestat, where contact was established with French elements.

The men who patrolled day and night during this period, or operated the listening and outposts, were the real heroes. Sometimes they failed to contact enemy, but quite often enemy were encountered and pitched battles resulted. The Pont dit Katzenwangenbrack over La Fecht River north of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr and the Junghurst Maison Ferme were the favorite objectives. The Third Reconnaissance Troop relieved the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol of occupying positions

so that the patrol could engage in its primary work. Attempts by patrols to reach the Chateau de Schoppenwihr failed as the enemy had it heavily guarded. Fire fights usually resulted. Enemy tanks protected the Pont dit Katzenwangenbrack at nights. The enemy finally destroyed the bridge. One day a patrol from Company "L" engaged four enemy machine guns in a fight and



suffered casualties. When the wounded were later recovered it was discovered the enemy had booby-trapped one of the casualties. "Love" Company in Guemar received such accurate enemy mortar and artillery fire it was suspected that civilians were signalling information to the enemy in regard to the "Cotton Baler" locations. The result was that the entire civil population of Guemar and the part of Ostheim held by our forces was evacuated. Defensive positions were improved by wire and mine laying. Extensive fire programs were fired by the artillery and the Seventh Infantry Cannon Company.

The Second Battalion had it relatively easy during the period as it was in Third Division reserve. Five blocks around Ribeauville were manned by the White Battalion troops.

Elements of the 15th Infantry commenced relief of the Seventh Infantry on position at midnight of 28-29 December. The Third Division, with the fresh 254th Infantry of the new 63rd Infantry Division attached,



Three officers who lost their lives in late December 1944 were: (1) 1 Lt. Robert E. Evans, Co. "A", died of injuries; (2) Capt. Leo G. Oberndorf, Co. "A", and (3) 1 Lt. Alex M. Karluk, Co. "M", killed in action.

readjusted its lines because of the relief of the Third Algerian Infantry Division, 5th Armored Division, and the Second Goumiers Tabor Division on the right and a general regrouping of all units of the First French Army in order to free reserves. The Ninth French Zouaves Regiment was to enter the line on the Third Division's right. Upon completion of the adjustments and reliefs, the American Third Infantry Division was to place particular attention to defense of Ribeauville, Ammerschwihr, Kayersberg, Orbey, La Place and La Chappelle positions.

The First and Third Battalions and Anti-Tank Company were completely relieved during the afternoon of 29 December 1944. The Red Battalion assembled in Riquewihr and the Blue Battalion in St. Hippolyte, as Cannon Company assembled in Kientzheim and prepared to move with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion. The Third Division Battle Patrol became attached to the Third Battalion. The Second Battalion was relieved of its blocks around Ribeauville and prepared to move.

The Second Battalion, reinforced with Anti-Tank Company and platoons from Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, moved by motor at 0800 on 30 December. The route followed ran west from Ribeauville along the road which goes up the narrow defile, in the heavily wooded Vosges Mountains, and winds around to the southwest through Aubure and Freland across the Weiss River to the Station de Freland, on the road northwest out of Kayersberg. When the convoy reached Station de Freland it then moved west through Hachimette to the vicinity of Orbey.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and the 7th Infantry Cannon Company moved from Bergheim to Ribeauville during the afternoon. Then from Ribeauville they followed the same route of the Second Battalion to the vicinity of Hachimette. There firing batteries went into position. Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Company also moved during the afternoon to Hachimette where the command post was established in Kuster Hotel.

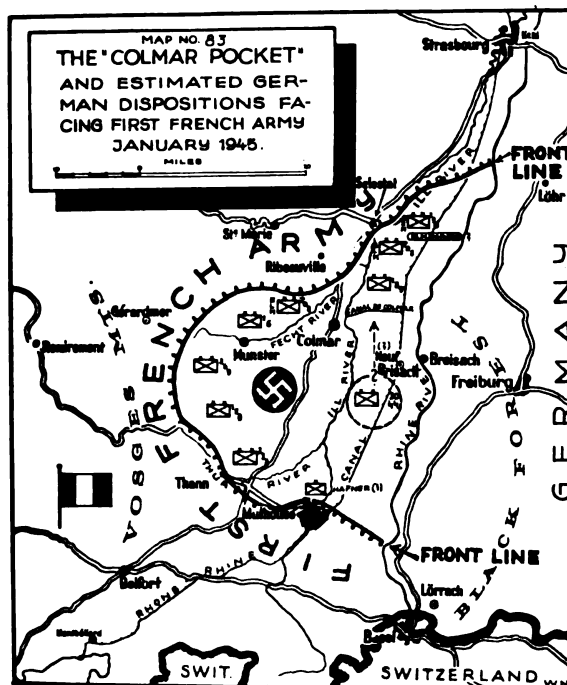
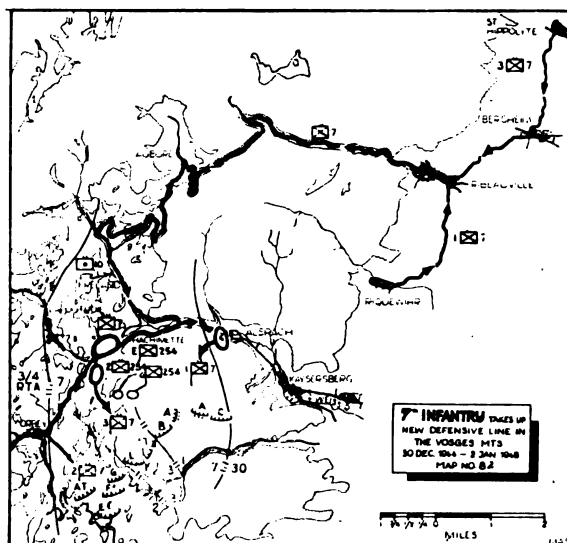
The Second Battalion commenced relief of the 2eme Battalion, Iere Regiment Tirailleurs Algerien in its right front sector at 2100 and completed the work at 0100 on 31 December 1944 without incident. In the early morning light enemy mortar and artillery concentrations were received. Company "G" occupied positions near La Chappelle. "Fox" Company was a few hundred yards to the southwest near LeFaite while "Easy" Company held a line in the vicinity of Le Chene and La Place. Anti-Tank Company went into position on the hill near Le Bouleau. The attached armor was disposed among the units.

The First Battalion with a platoon of light tanks from Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, two flak-wagons from a detachment of 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion and a platoon of chemical mortars moved out of Riquewihr to Ribeauville then over the used route to Station de Freland, but there it turned east and moved to the vicinity of Alspach. Relief was commenced immediately of the 2eme Regiment Goumiers Tabor Marocain.

The Third Battalion, with two "flakwagons", a platoon of chemical mortars and the Third Division Battle Patrol, moved in one column out of St. Hippolyte at 1100 to Ribeauville then moved over the prescribed route for an assembly area in the vicinity of the road junction west of Hachimette.

The First Battalion completed relief of French forces

in its sector at 1415. Company "B" went into position on a line from Hill 883 northeast to the vicinity of Herrenwassen stream. Company "C" continued the line east another thousands yards. Company "A" established a block with one platoon on the road between "Baker" and "Charlie" Company lines and held the remainder of the company in battalion reserve.



The Blue Battalion relieved elements of the 2eme Battalion, 7eme Regiment Tirailleurs Algerien, during the night and occupied positions in the center of the Seventh Infantry line. Companies "L", "K", and "I" occupied a line from La Goutte south of Hill 885 to the northeast of Company "B's" position.

On 30 December elements of the 254th Infantry Regiment consisting of its Second Battalion, Cannon Company, the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon, Com-

munications Platoon and Service Company were officially attached to the Seventh Infantry and assembled in Val de Ville, northwest of Selestat. On the first day of the new year the new attachments assembled in the vicinity of Allagouttes with the exception of the Service Company which was attached to Seventh Infantry Service Company in Lapoutroie, and the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon which was attached to the First Battalion. The remainder of the attached troops furnished reserve for the Seventh Infantry and worked on counter-attack plans to destroy or throw back enemy forces which might break through the front line positions. Four sections of the French 20th Mule Company were attached to the Regiment on 31 December. The Goums and their mules, old companions of the "Cotton Balers" in Italy, hauled supplies to places that jeeps could not reach.

Until 4 January 1945 the Regiment maintained its front line defensive positions and improved them by laying tactical wire. Aggressive patrols were conducted. A patrol of Company "G" captured eight enemy without firing a shot one night. Other patrols engaged enemy in small arms fights. The Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon of the 254th Infantry Regiment and the Third Division Battle Patrol were relieved of attachment and reported to the Third Battalion, 15th Infantry.

Company "E", 254th Infantry, was attached to the Second Battalion and during the night of 4-5 January 1945 relieved the 4th Company, First Battalion, First French Parachute Regiment to extend the Seventh Infantry's sector of responsibility another thousand yards on the right or west.

From 5 to 15 January 1945 the Seventh Infantry continued to hold and improve its front line positions by laying tactical wire, mines, trip-flares and booby traps. Aggressive patrols, artillery and mortar actions marked the period. From the 7th to 9th all elements of the 254th Infantry Regiment were relieved of attachment and moved to the vicinity of Ribeauville. Anti-Tank Company replaced Company "E" of the 254th Infantry on the right end of the line. Some readjustments and shifting of companies were made.



During the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign the Seventh Infantry fought the bitter cold and deep snow of the Vosges Mountains as well as the enemy.

Again the heroes were those who patrolled and felt the enemy lines. Each night from four to eight reconnaissance and combat patrols operated to the front besides the regular contact patrols to adjacent units. All rifle companies as well as the Regimental Battle Patrol

sent patrols out in the snow and cold of the Vosges winter. The enemy did the same thing and frequently sharp clashes resulted from meeting engagements. One four man enemy patrol was taken intact as it approached First Battalion lines early one cold, bitter morning. Another four man enemy patrol infiltrated the positions of Company "E", 254th Infantry Regiment, the night before that company was detached from the Seventh Infantry, and reached the vicinity of the command post where it fired rifle shots before withdrawing.

Staff Sergeant Mitchell Tarasiuk of the Regimental Battle Patrol engaged an eight-man enemy patrol which was attempting to cut off his unit the night of 11 January. With "Tommy Gun" fire he killed three Germans and routed the remainder of the enemy force.²



The house shown above, near Orbey, France, served as the command post of the Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, during January 1945.

On the night of 13 January 1945 while Private Conrad L. Lacombe, a scout of the Regimental Battle Patrol, was leading a reconnaissance patrol toward a house near Le Chene, France, the enemy sent up a flare and opened up with machine gun fire. Bullets from a machine gun less than twenty yards to his front, tore through Private Lacombe's camouflage suit and jacket as he hugged the snow-covered ground. Meanwhile he readied a grenade. When the enemy sent up a second flare, he hurled the grenade into the emplacement, inflicted casualties and silenced the weapon. He then turned his "Tommy Gun" on a machine pistol operator twenty-five yards away, and silenced him with several bursts of fire.²

The complete story of the operations of the Seventh Infantry patrols would fill a book and unfortunately only a few can be told here. A "Fox" Company patrol encountered enemy minefields one night and suffered casualties. A "Love" Company patrol led by Staff Sergeant Herman F. Nevers approached La Baroche and the leader was captured and taken into a house where he was grilled by an enemy interrogator before fifteen others, many of whom wore black uniforms. Staff Sergeant Nevers always kept a small pistol concealed in one of his boots, which the enemy failed to detect when they "frisked" him. To their surprise he suddenly drew the pistol and held them at bay while he backed out of the

² GOs No. 345 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. S/Sgt. Tarasiuk & Pvt. (later S/Sgt.) Lacombe were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

door and into the blackness of the night. On another occasion the enemy booby trapped a small house used by Company "E" as an outpost. When the outpost group sought to enter one night the house blew up, just before anyone actually entered. Luckily the trip cord had been pulled prematurely. The night of 12-13 January 1945 saw three patrols engaging in stiff fights. The enemy suffered casualties. The next night a "Fox" Company patrol engaged fifteen enemy in a spirited small arms fight in the snow. The enemy also raided a Company "E" outpost and two men became missing.

7TH INFANTRY PLANS STRONG RAID ON ENEMY POSITIONS

On order of the division commander, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges outlined plans for a raid in force on enemy positions south of Hills 885 and 883 on the morning of 16 January 1945.

The Third Battalion, under Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey, was directed to employ two rifle companies in the attack and one in reserve. One company was to assemble at "Y", cross line of departure "White" at 0630 in the attack, seize successively Objectives 1, 2 and 3, destroy all enemy positions, and re-enter Seventh Infantry lines on completion of the mission. Another company was to assemble at "Z", cross line of departure "Blue" at 0730 in the attack, seize and hold Objective "X", destroy or capture enemy in its zone, and protect the right flank of the company attacking

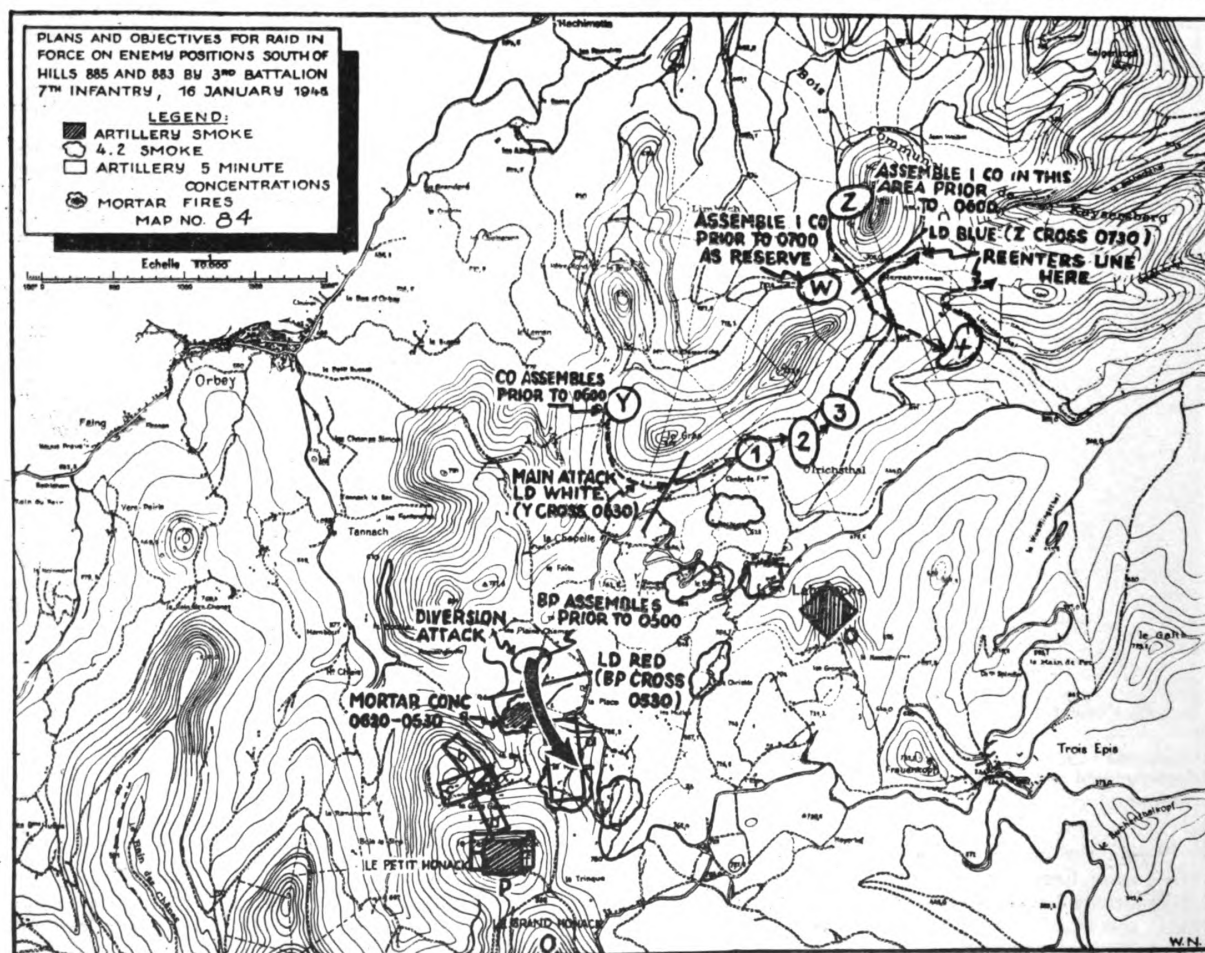
from "Y", until ordered to withdraw by order of the Third Battalion commander. A third company was to assemble at "W" as reserve and be committed only on regimental order.

The Second Battalion was directed to conduct a diversionary attack on enemy positions in the vicinity of Hill 806 by employing the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol. The Battle Patrol was to assemble in the vicinity of the Company "E" location prior to 0500. Then from 0520 to 0530 the Second Battalion was to place mortar concentrations on "g". At 0530 the Battle Patrol was to cross line of departure "Red", attack and destroy enemy positions in the vicinity of Hill 806, fire all its weapons and withdraw prior to day-break.

Commencing at 0530 the 10th Field Artillery Battalion was to place successive five minute concentrations on areas designated by "a", "b", "c", "d", "e", and "f", then support the attack with fires as requested by the Third Battalion commander. The artillery was to smoke areas "O", "P", and "Q" from 0800 to 0900. Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, was to smoke designated areas and support the attack. The First and Second Battalions were to be prepared to furnish fire support on call.

THE RAID OF 16 JANUARY 1945

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol assembled in its assigned area near Le Chene as directed, but ten minutes before H-Hour a mortar barrage fell on the assembly



area. One of the leaders, Second Lieutenant Richard S. Brown, was killed and five men were wounded.

Private First Class Joseph E. Pawlen, Jr., of the Medical Detachment crawled to the aid of the wounded. While shells burst fifteen to twenty yards from him, he lay on his stomach and amputated with a scissor the badly mutilated leg of one of the casualties. After evacuating the other injured soldiers, he enlisted the aid of a tank destroyer and evacuated the more seriously wounded man, whose life he saved.³

Second Lieutenant Stanley Petropolis led the remainder of the Battle Patrol in the attack and carried out the diversionary efforts as planned.

Company "L" commanded by Captain Phillip T. Terry crossed line of departure "White" at the appointed time but encountered enemy mortar and small arms fire. The advance was continued until eight enemy machine guns in the vicinity of Labaroche held up the company.

When others assigned to perform the mission showed hesitancy, Private First Class Graham Stewart voluntarily abandoned the cover of a bank and ran twenty-five yards over open terrain toward an enemy-held house with a demolition charge. Reaching the side of the house, he tossed a thermite grenade through a window and then followed it with the explosive. Before Private First Class Stewart could reach the safety of the embankment, the resulting blast, destroyed the house and hurled him over the bank. A piece of flying timber struck him on the knee. Two enemy machine gunners, later captured, stated that the house had sheltered thirty Germans.⁴

A heavy fight ensued and three enemy machine guns were knocked out. The Germans retaliated with machine gun fire and heavy mortar concentrations which inflicted casualties on "Love" Company. Technical Sergeant Ned Finch, Staff Sergeant Walter F. McCoy, Sergeant Onis L. Rains, Private First Class William B. Fortuna and Private First Class Joseph Ungar were killed. Unable to advance further Company "L" was ordered to withdraw.

Company "I", under the command of Captain Edward J. Brink, crossed line of departure "Blue" at 0700 in the attack.

At one point sudden machine gun and rifle fire at seventy-five yards range disorganized one of the "Item" Company platoons. Sergeant Edward A. Mottershead rallied a group of men and led them forward to within fifty yards of the enemy's well-concealed positions. Although severely wounded by a bullet in the hip, he retained command and continued to direct fire against

the enemy. His men laid down such effective fire that the enemy withdrew and abandoned a machine gun. Sergeant Mottershead's courageous leadership enabled his company to continue on its mission.⁵

With one enemy machine gun removed, Company "I" continued on to Objective "X" where at 0900 it became engaged in a fire fight with the enemy. Sergeant William C. Hartman was killed. In a sharp engagement Company "I" knocked out three enemy machine guns, killed twelve Germans, captured thirteen and fulfilled every detail of its mission.



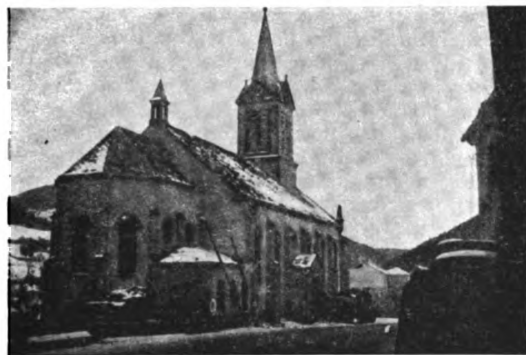
Major General John W. ("Iron Mike") O'Daniel and Lieutenant Colonel Heintges talk things over just before the awards ceremony for 7th Infantry personnel near Hachimette.

Meanwhile, due to the inability of "Love" Company to advance, Company "K", the reserve company under the command of Captain Francis J. Kret, was committed. A line of departure was crossed in the vicinity of the "spiderweb" at 0835. Enemy resistance in the form of machine gun fire was encountered.

Company "K" advanced on Objectives 3 and 2 where a number of enemy were killed and an estimated 100 flushed from the position. When its ammunition was exhausted the company withdrew. All Seventh Infantry units were back within their own lines at 1300.

A total of twelve enemy machine guns had been destroyed, an unknown number of enemy killed, seven captured and the enemy flushed from forward positions. Cost of the raid to the Seventh Infantry was one officer and six enlisted men, four of whom were non-commissioned officers, killed in action and twenty-seven wounded. Company "L" suffered most with five men killed and thirteen wounded.

Captain Edward J. Brink, First Lieutenant Milan J. Teekell and Private First Class Benjamin Nathanson, all of Company "I", and Staff Sergeant Floyd J. Backus of Company "K" were cited for actions performed that day.⁶



The village church in Hachimette, Alsace, France.

³ GO No. 306, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 20 Aug. '45. Pfc Pawlen (later a T/5) was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴ GO No. 89, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Mar. '45. Pfc (later Sgt.) Stewart was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. Sgt. Mottershead was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GOs No. 113, 168, 171 & 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Mar., 20 & 22 May & 18 July '45. Capt. Brink, 1 Lt. Teekell, S/Sgt. Backus & Pfc Nathanson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

SEVENTH INFANTRY HOLDS ITS LINE WITH ATTACHMENTS AS "COTTON BALERS" REST AND PREPARE TO RESUME THE OFFENSIVE

Following conclusion of their raids, Third Battalion forces and the Regimental Battle Patrol withdrew to assembly areas in and near Hachimette.

On 16 January the 290th Engineer Battalion and the Third Battalion (less Company "L") of the 254th Infantry were attached to the Seventh Infantry and were used to hold the front line positions until the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was relieved of responsibility for the sector on 19 January.

Relief of the First and Second Battalions and Anti-Tank Company was accomplished during the night of 16-17 January. The Red Battalion then assembled in Alspach while the White Battalion and Anti-Tank Company assembled in Lapoutroie before moving to Kaysersberg during the morning. The Second Battalion however had left its 60 and 81mm mortar sections and its anti-tank platoon in place to support the engineers who were to experience their first duty in the front lines.

On the 17th, Company "L", 254th Infantry, also became attached to the Regiment and relieved the Battle Patrol and Company "L", 30th Infantry, on the left, to further extend the sector of Seventh Infantry responsibility. The Third Reconnaissance Troop remained in position in the additional sector and was also attached to the Regiment.

The line was held with the attachments until on 19 January when the remnants of the 112th Infantry, a regiment of the 28th Infantry Division, which had been greatly depleted by the German offensive in the "Bulge", relieved the Third Battalion, 254th Infantry, and the Third Reconnaissance Troop, which in turn were relieved of attachment to the Seventh Infantry. The 290th Engineer Battalion, 20th French Mule Company and one platoon of Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, were released from attachment to the Seventh Infantry but attached to the new organization and continued their missions. All the Seventh Infantry mortar and machine gun sections, which had remained in

the lines to support the attachments, were withdrawn and at 1700 on 19 January 1945 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges passed command of the sector to the commanding officer of the 112th Infantry. For the first time since 19 November 1944 the Regiment was officially out of the line as during the previous changes from one sector to another the shifting had been done by one battalion



Four of the ten "Cotton Balers" killed in action during the period 14-16 January 1945 were: (1) Sgt. William C. Hartman, Co. "I"; (2) S/Sgt. George W. Partin, Co. "A"; (3) Pfc David A. Wolaver, Co. "H" and (4) 2 Lt. Richard S. Brown, Regt'l B.P.

at a time and there were always some Seventh Infantry troops in the lines in one place or another. Even during the period from 17 to 19 January 1945 when the line was held by the attachments, the heavy weapons personnel were in the lines and Cannon Company rendered support.

From 18 to 21 January 1945 the rifle companies rested, rehabilitated and engaged in some limited training. At an awards ceremony which was held during the period, the commanding general of the Third Infantry Division decorated a number of "Cotton Balers" for extraordinary heroism and gallant actions displayed on previous days.

CHAPTER II

Phase One of the Attack

22-26 JANUARY 1945

On 20 January 1945 the First French Corps of the First French Army opened the attack against German forces in the "Alsace Bridgehead" or "Colmar Pocket", from Mulhouse in the south. Two days later the Second French Corps, with the American Third Infantry Division in the assault role, was to attack from the northwest at night. The attacking regiments were to force crossings of La Fecht and L'Ill Rivers, pivot to the south and cross the Canal de Colmar in an encircling movement designed to isolate and capture Colmar and to seize the important terrain features to the east of Colmar, preliminary to a continued attack. On the following day at dawn the Premiere Division Infanterie Marocain was to launch an attack on the Third Division's left as all available forces of the First French Army were to be brought into action to converge on Neuf-Brisach, and eliminate the "Colmar Pocket".

The action of the American Third Infantry Division developed into three distinct assault phases and it is a noteworthy fact that the Seventh Infantry Combat Team played a principal assault role in all three phases. In the first phase the 30th Infantry teamed up with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment until relieved by the 15th Infantry. In the second phase the 15th Infantry was to attack alongside the inimitable "7th Light Foot" across the Canal de Colmar but was delayed. In the third and final phase the Seventh Infantry "doughboys" alone opened the attack between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin and the Rhine River.

For Phase I, plans of Lieutenant Colonel John A. Heintges called for the First and Third Battalions, under the respective commands of Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace and Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey, to assemble their troops northeast of Beblen-

heim, under cover of darkness on 22 January 1945. Each of the assault battalions was to move one assault platoon across La Fecht River during early darkness prior to H-Hour, which was established at 2100. The assault platoons were to seize and secure bridgeheads and protect bridge building parties from Company "A", 10th Engineers, and to cover crossings of the main forces of the battalions at H-Hour.

The First and Third Battalions, following the successful crossings of La Fecht River on bridges "Red" and "Blue" on the south edge of Guemar, were to swing to the south and southeast, clear their zones of all enemy and capture successive objectives. The First Battalion drew the mission of capturing Ostheim, Objective "A", and was ordered on completion of that assignment to send a strong combat formation of not less than one company to Objective "D" to block the road from the

as rapidly as possible and seize Objectives "N", "P", "Q", and "S" while the Battle Patrol was to move on "M", and seize and hold the crossing there until engineers should install another bridge. Upon seizure of "S" the Second Battalion was to send strong combat patrols to the south, organize road blocks and strong-points with armor, anti-tank guns and mines to prevent a possible enemy armored thrust from penetrating the Regiment's positions. The battalion was then to be prepared to continue the attack on Regimental order.

Cannon Company under the command of First Lieutenant George Guckert was to occupy firing positions east of Zellenberg and support the Regiment in its zone of advance by coordinating fire with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion.

Anti-Tank Company under the command of First Lieutenant Murlan F. Smith was to assemble initially in



Two views of Kayserberg, Alsace, France, during January, 1945.

south and to protect the right flank of the Second Battalion which was to pass through in the right half of the Regiment's zone. The Third Battalion was to advance with all possible speed on the left and seize successive objectives which included Houssen, Objective "O". Upon seizure of Objective "T" the Third Battalion was to send strong combat patrols to the south toward Colmar and block enemy armored approaches from the city with tanks, tank destroyers, anti-tank guns and mines, and be prepared to attack southwest, south or southeast on Regimental order. Blue Battalion patrols along the left flank were to report all available crossings over L'Il River, maintain contact with the 30th Infantry on the left and protect the Regiment's left flank.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, attached to the Second Battalion, was to occupy Objective "E" from Concentration Area 1 and at H-Hour was to simulate a crossing of La Fecht River in the vicinity of the railroad bridge, and fire all its weapons for ten minutes to create a diversion.

The Second Battalion, commanded by Major Jack M. Duncan, was to cross La Fecht River by the First and Third Battalion bridges on Regimental order, pivot to the south and go into the attack. The White Battalion forces were to assault Objective "K", the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, from Objective "Z" and get support, on signal, from the Battle Patrol, which by that time was to have two medium tanks. Signal of the battalion commander to the Battle Patrol which would bring the supporting fire was to be two green flares. Flares with white and red clusters were to signal that a lifting of fire was desired. Upon reduction of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr the Second Battalion was to continue the attack

the vicinity of Riquewihr and be prepared on order to move one anti-tank platoon each to the Second and Third Battalions over the Ostheim bridge and hold one platoon in reserve in the vicinity of the Chateau de Schoppenwihr.

Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to infiltrate into firing positions in the vicinity of Riquewihr and Zellenberg during the night of 21-22 January 1945 and support the initial attack of the Regiment by direct fire in zone "DOG-FACE" from 2130 to 2200, in zone "FACE-SOLDIER" from 2300 to 2330, in zone "SOLDIER-BOY" from 0100 to 0200 and in zone "BOY-OKAY" from 0200 to 0300.

One platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, three sections of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, two platoons of Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, all attached to the Regiment, were to assemble in the concentration areas during the night of 21-22 January and be prepared to move on Regimental order. The chemical mortars were to be attached to the First and Third Battalions initially.

Upon completion of the vehicle bridge at Ostheim by the engineers, the attachments were to be rushed to the support of the battalions on order. One mine clearing squad each, from Company "A", 10th Engineers, were to support the Second and Third Battalions.

On the left of the Seventh Infantry the 30th Infantry was also to cross La Fecht River, seize some assigned objectives then cross L'Il River. On the right, west of La Fecht River, the 254th Infantry was to attack through a holding line held by 28th Infantry Division units, seize objectives and support the Seventh Infantry

attack by fire on Ostheim, from all its available weapons from 2200 to 2230 the night of the attack.

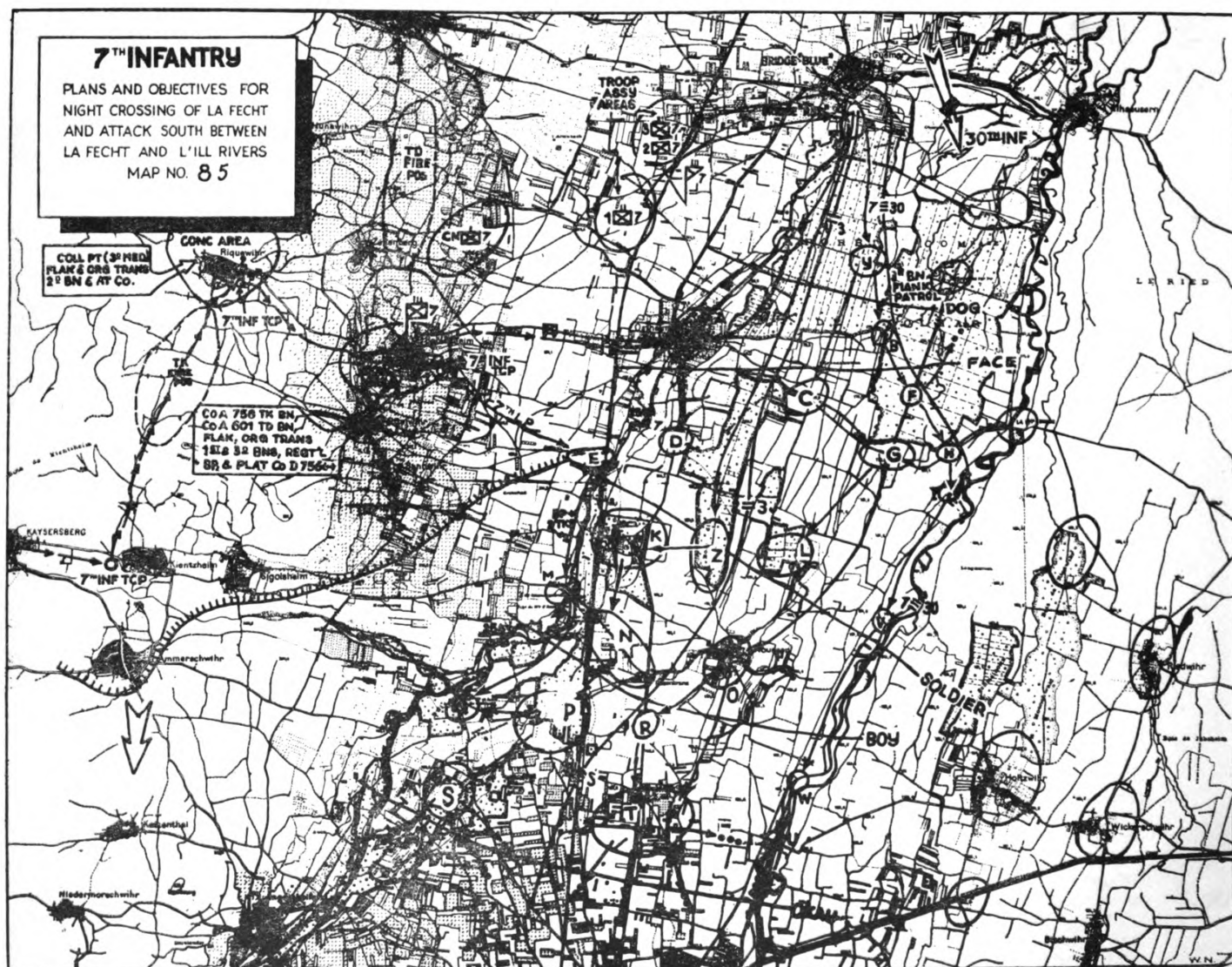
The terrain which was to be the new battle ground for the Seventh Infantry is a part of the flat Alsatian Plain which lies between the Vosges Mountains and the Rhine River. The Forêt Communale de Colmar and Bois dit de Rothleible provided wooded areas for concealment of both enemy and Seventh Infantry movements.

The exact enemy strength in the Seventh Infantry sector was undetermined. Prisoners had not been captured in that sector for some time but it was believed that the German 708 Division controlled the area. Continuous reports of enemy activity consisting of chopping and hammering in the wooded areas had been received and indicated that enemy dugouts and defenses were within the sector. Patrols had drawn sniper fire from across La Fecht River. No recent enemy artillery or mortar positions had been located; however, small-sized mortars had been firing concentrations on the part of Ostheim west of the river held by American forces and comparatively heavy artillery had been received.

7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO POSITION FOR THE NIGHT ATTACK

Attached armor and tactical vehicles of the Regiment used the bridge in Kayserberg as their initial point and moved to firing positions and concentration areas during the night of 21-22 January without incident.

At 1000 on 22 January foot troops of the First Battalion moved through Kayserberg enroute to Concentration Area 1. The route followed was to the east to Road Junction 229.3 on the edge of Kientzheim, then north over the unimproved road which runs up the saddle between the wooded mountains of the Bois de Kientzheim on the left and Mont de Sigolsheim on the right to Riquewihr. The enemy from vantage points to the south observed the movement of the "Cotton Baler" troops and interdicted the road junction and road north, to where it crossed the first rise. The Red Battalion troops moved through the interdictory fire and successfully closed into its concentration area early in the afternoon. The Blue Battalion troops, having moved from Hachimette to Kayserberg by vehicle, followed the First



Battalion troops on foot by a two and one-half hour interval. On reaching the road junction and starting the trek north the Blue Battalion troops received heavier fire from enemy self-propelled artillery and sustained casualties, which caused some delay, but the troops hurried on past the danger zone and closed into Concentration Area 1 at 1545. The Second Battalion troops experienced less trouble and closed into their area near Riquewihr at 1800. The Regimental Command Post opened in Beblenheim.



Chaplain Raymond E. Vint conducted services out of doors near Guemar, Alsace, just a few hours before the first attack of the "Colmar Pocket" operations was opened.

Final check of all personnel was made in the concentration areas. Canteens were filled. Wearing the white "spook suit" each individual carried one "K" ration, and the bothersome gas mask, besides firing weapons. Each rifleman carried four bandoliers of ammunition and a minimum of two fragmentation grenades. Each battalion was equipped with ten toboggans for hauling heavier equipment. Skiis and snow shoes were with the regimental train. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, established a forward casualty collecting station in Riquewihr as initial evacuation of casualties was to be made through Guemar, but later over the Ostheim bridge when established.

The Blue Battalion troops made the first move for the forward assembly areas at 1750 and entered their area south of the Station de Ribeauville two hours later. Red and White Battalion troops followed at half-hour intervals.

During the early darkness two assault rifle platoons, one each from the First and Third Battalions, crossed La Fecht River in the vicinity of Guemar and secured bridgeheads on the east side of the river. Under the protection of those platoons construction parties from Company "A", 10th Engineers, completed two foot bridges over the icy river. Speedily and efficiently the work was completed before H-Hour, when two Seventh Infantry rifle battalions were scheduled to cross the river in strength.

On the first anniversary day of the Nettuno landings, but not to the exact hour, the main bodies of the First and Third Battalions, Seventh Infantry, crossed La Fecht River by the two foot bridges. H-Hour was 2100. In fifteen minutes' time "Item" Company was completely across and reported no activity. "Able" and "King" Companies followed. The movement by stealth in the darkness of the night was working. However, when "Charlie" and "Love" Companies were in the process of crossing, enemy artillery fire began to be received as the enemy became aware of what was going

on. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol meanwhile had occupied Objective "E" and staged its diversion to the south in a simulated crossing.

After crossing the river the First and Third Battalions swung to the south and southeast and began advancing toward their objectives. The supporting weapons of the Regiment opened with their fire as planned.

In another diversionary attack Second Lieutenant William M. Moegelin of Company "C" led a patrol in fording the icy La Fecht near Ostheim. He led his nine-man patrol to a point twenty yards from a hostile machine gun nest. An attack was made on the enemy position. The weapons of six men failed to operate. With the few remaining weapons the enemy machine gun was engaged for about fifteen minutes, until one man was wounded. Second Lieutenant Moegelin then withdrew his men and led them to another position. There he was wounded by an exploding mine. His patrol assumed a defensive position.

The First Battalion encountered numerous mines and wire obstacles in the Bois Communal de Colmar in its zone while the Third Battalion ran into enemy small arms and machine gun opposition.

The First Battalion troops became bogged down on the edge of a mine field and were disorganized by the exploding mines and enemy fire which was received. It was then that the battalion commander and a platoon leader from Company "A" displayed extraordinary heroism while leading the troops. Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace crossed the uncharted mine belt and by example inspired men to follow him. Leading a unit over a foot bridge he was exposed to enemy small arms and machine gun fire. He directed an assault on enemy emplacements and personally captured six Germans. First Lieutenant Bernard F. Coday led his platoon through the mine field under enemy automatic fire. He then advanced in the assault over a foot bridge which was swept by the crossfire of three enemy machine guns. Reaching the far side of the ravine he plunged forward and fired his carbine into enemy positions. He destroyed a three-man machine gun crew and put other Germans to flight. During a second assault he was wounded but continued to direct his platoon's attack from a prone position in the snow, until all enemy strong points in the wooded area were destroyed. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace was awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross and First Lieutenant Coday was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁷



Ostheim was almost completely destroyed by bombardments from both sides during the Colmar operations.

⁷ For authority see GOs No. 585 & 622, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 6 & 18 Oct. '45.

When the First Battalion finally passed through the mine and wire obstacles and overcame enemy resistance in the Bois Communal de Colmar, it moved rapidly for its objectives. Ostheim was entered at 0400 and the Red Battalion troops then became engaged in a very heavy small arms and machine gun battle for the town, as the enemy were determined to hold on to the place. The patrol of Second Lieutenant Moegelin, which had earlier made a diversionary attack, joined the main forces of the battalion in Ostheim. In the ensuing fight Second Lieutenant Moegelin was killed.⁸

The First Battalion troops battled with fierce determination and at 0950 had cleared all the town except two blocks in the southern district. There the Germans stubbornly held on and it was not until 1730 in the late afternoon that the enemy troops were completely expelled from Ostheim. Staff Sergeants Lee S. Ashford and Kenneth L. Russ, Privates First Class Philip A. Brandenburg, Winn McCarty and Edward T. Winiarski, all of Company "A"; Sergeant Paul D. Helms, Corporal Jack Silberman and Private First Class William F. Daly, Jr., all of Company "D"; First Lieutenant John R. Mayhew of First Battalion Headquarters Company; Captain Frank J. Szladek and Second Lieutenant Robert L. Tillman of the Medical Corps were outstanding during the actions.⁹

The Third Battalion overcame its initial resistance and "I" Company, under the command of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony, on the right, and "L" Company, directed by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley,

ordered to cross the river over bridges "Red" and "Blue" and carry out its assigned mission. By 230140 all Second Battalion troops were across the river and were moving to the south. At 0435 the forward elements were at the southern edge of the Forêt Communale de Colmar. Company "E" pushed on across the flat, open, snow-covered terrain separating the Forêt Communale de Colmar from the Bois dit de Rothleible, and encountered concentrated enemy automatic fire.

In the early morning the point-blank fire of about one hundred Germans equipped with rifles and an estimated twenty machine guns wounded approximately thirty members of Company "E". Captain James F. Powell rallied the scattered elements of "Easy" Company. It was then that Private First Class Stephen C. Ludlam displayed the extraordinary heroism that merited a posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁰ With his company thus caught on the open, snow covered field by withering point-blank automatic and rifle fire, he and seven others advanced in the attack. Enemy bullets riddled his snow suit as he poured out M-1 rifle fire from exposed positions against a dug-in enemy force but twenty-five yards away. Three of his comrades, Privates First Class Richard F. Albus, William L. Catts and Philip Di Mura, were killed in the action. With his four remaining comrades Private First Class Ludlam fought intrepidly against hopeless odds for forty-five minutes. He personally silenced an enemy machine gun and killed seven Germans before he was mortally wounded.



Thirteen of the 26 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 23 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Richard F. Albus, Co. "E"; (2) Pfc Bradford L. Bing, Co. "G"; (3) Pfc William L. Catts, Co. "E"; (4) Pfc Philip Di Mura, Co. "E"; (5) Pfc Frank J. Flynn, M.D.; (6) Pfc Joseph A. Gurski, Co. "G"; (7) Pfc Gilbert J. Hinrich, M.D.; (8) Pfc Donald H. LaBare, Co. "G"; (9) Pfc Donald B. Mitchell, Co. "G"; (10) Pfc David P. Rorer, Jr., Co. "G"; (11) Pvt. Richard A. Solver, Co. "A"; (12) Pfc Jewel Wagner, Co. "G"; (13) Capt. Beverly G. Hays, Co. "C".

on the left, advanced rapidly through the woods. At 2230 the troops were across the east-west road between Road Junctions 177.1 and 178.1. "Love" Company was on Objective "Y". Mortar and small arms fire were received. Resistance was overcome and the troops pushed on for Objective "C", which was taken against moderate resistance. At 0715 on 23 January the Third Battalion troops jumped off for Objective "G", with some elements moving for the Brunnwald woods, Objective "L".

During the operations Lieutenant Colonel Heintges set up a forward command post in one of the few buildings of Ostheim west of La Fecht which were not completely demolished.

The Second Battalion, which had closed into its forward assembly area at 2200 on 22 January, was

Staff Sergeant Herbert C. Hoover and Technician Fourth Grade John C. Rowe, who had both been wounded, and Private First Class Delbert W. King, from different positions, drew the hostile fire and engaged

⁸ GO No. 163, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 May '45. 2 Lt. Moegelin was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁹ GOs No. 77, 113, 120, 175, 177, 227, 235, 249, 256 & 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 & 29 Mar., 6 Apr., 24 & 25 May, 25 & 29 June & 15 July '45. Sgt. Helms, Pfc Brandenburg & Winiarski were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal & Capt. Szladek, 1 Lt. Mayhew, 2 Lt. Tillman, S/Sgts. Ashford & Russ, Cpl. Silberman, Pfc Daly & McCarty were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁰ For authority see GO No. 574, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 4 Oct. '45.

the enemy with Thompson sub-machine guns and rifles, and thus enabled Captain Powell, who was greatly assisted by Staff Sergeant Salvatore A. Antonucci, to withdraw Company "E" to the cover of the Bois dit de Rothleible.¹¹

Artillery fire was directed on the enemy positions. Following a reorganization of Company "E", that rifle unit with Company "G" abreast of it, made a second attack for the Second Battalion across the snow-covered tableland.

Captain Powell was wounded when his company was about mid-way across the open space. He continued to lead his men however and brought them into the midst of the enemy positions. A hot battle ensued with both sides using all their available small arms and automatic weapons. The enemy then directed mortar fire into the battle areas. Staff Sergeant Antonucci boldly moved among his men despite the bursting mortar shells and directed skillful maneuvers of his platoon under fire. After an enemy machine gun inflicted eleven casualties among his men, the non-commissioned officer led his remaining men in a charge which resulted in the destruction of the German machine gun, the killing of several of the enemy and the capture of fifteen Germans.¹¹

Captain Leonard D. Hanney and First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane courageously led Company "G" across the snow-covered terrain during the attack on the strongly held enemy positions. When the company was mid-way across the open field the estimated one hundred enemy soldiers opened up with violent bursts of fire from numerous machine guns and laid concentrated mortar fire on the field. Privates First Class Bradford L. Bing, Joseph A. Gurski, Donald H. LeBore, Austin M. Long, Donald B. Mitchell, Wayne D. Mooney, David P. Rorer, Jr., Jewel E. Wagner and Sergeant Walter G. Wiede were killed.

As his squad encountered deadly machine gun fire from wooded positions fifty yards to his front, Private First Class Arthur Marcotte, of "George" Company, advanced intrepidly over the bullet-swept ground, and fired his sub-machine gun from the hip. Twenty yards from a hostile emplacement, he killed the three-man crew with a hand grenade. Seconds later, a sniper's bullet ripped into his stomach. Mortally wounded, Private First Class Marcotte staggered blindly forward for thirty yards and fell exhausted to the snow-covered ground but opened fire with his "Tommy-gun". He killed the sniper but died of his wound a few minutes later. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹²

Twenty-five casualties were suffered by Company "G" but due much to the courage and skill of its commanding officer the company continued forward. The light machine gun sections set up bases of fire as the riflemen of "George" Company assaulted the hostile positions. In one instance the platoon led by First Lieutenant McKane overran enemy positions during a fire fight at point blank range, killed six Germans and captured twelve others, including a mortar observation group and four machine guns intact.

The resolute attack of Companies "E" and "G" overran the enemy emplacements and resulted in the killing of forty Germans, the capture of thirty others and the withdrawal of other enemy from the area. Besides those already mentioned from Company "E", Captain Hanney, Sergeant Noel A. Gladden, Private First Class George H. Hartstein and Private First Class John J. Miele, who was killed in a subsequent action, all of Company "G", and Technician Fifth Grade Beuford L. Olson of the Medical Detachment were cited for gallantry displayed on that day.¹³

Enemy forces, which had been routed by the Third Battalion during its move through the Forêt Communal de Colmar during the night, infiltrated through Second Battalion rear elements and caused enough alarm and diversion to upset the plans of the Regimental commander. Company "F" and other elements of the Second Battalion had to turn and attack the enemy within their midst. Sharp small arms and machine gun battles were fought before the Second Battalion forces were able to wipe out the enemy pockets of resistance. The northern sector of the Bois dit de Rothleible was cleared of all resisting enemy at noontime of 23 January. Because of the opposition encountered by Companies "E" and "G" and the infiltration of the other enemy forces into the rear elements of the battalion, the Second Battalion did not proceed with as much speed as was hoped. In fact it was necessary for a reorganization of the battalion during the afternoon.

The progress of the Third Battalion, which was at first quite rapid, was temporarily halted when the enemy launched a counter-attack with Infantry and tanks on the Regiment's left front. The enemy formations were broken up by fire from the supporting artillery and mortars. The Third Battalion then seized Objective "L". Private First Class James F. Morgan, a runner of Company "L", was brave and gallant during the action.¹⁴

Due to the developments, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges altered his plans and sent the First Battalion after the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, which originally had been a Second Battalion objective.

Company "A", under the command of Captain Michael Meliska, moved south from Ostheim to Objective "D". The remainder of the First Battalion maneuvered through the Bois dit de Rothleible and passed through the Second Battalion during the night. At 0200 on 24 January Companies "B" and "C" began the attack for the chateau. Strong opposition was encountered and at day-break the enemy counter-attacked with Infantry and six tanks. Captain Beverly G. Hays of "Charlie" Company was among the killed. First Lieutenant Robert B. Tallman assumed command of the company during the height of the battle.

Concentrated small arms fire and blasts of enemy automatic fire coupled with the action of the enemy tanks halted the assault companies of the First Battalion. When an enemy Mark VI or "Tiger" tank approached to attack the exposed flank of "Baker" Company, Private Clifton C. Thomas staved off the tank assault single-handedly. He ran 75 yards through heavy fire, without cover or concealment, and engaged the tank from an exposed position. Three enemy machine guns trained their fire upon his position. With only seconds to accomplish his mission, he launched two grenades which struck the tank and caused it to withdraw. Private Thomas was killed however by the enemy machine gun fire. For his extraordinary heroism he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁵

¹¹ GOs No. 145, 171, 187, 208 & 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 29 Apr., 22 & 30 May, 12 & 25 June '45. Capt. Powell was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Antonucci & Hoover, T/4 Rowe & Pfc King were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² For authority see GO No. 585, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 6 Oct. '45.

¹³ GOs No. 66, 113, 158, 208 & 264, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Feb., 29 Mar., 12 May & 19 July '45. Capt. Hanney, Sgt. Gladden, Pfc Hartstein & Miele were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁴ GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Morgan was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ For authority see GO No. 279, HQ, 7th Army, 28 June '45.

With the enemy counter-attack stopped Lieutenant Colonel Wallace again displayed outstanding leadership. He walked through barrages of enemy shell fire and urged the assault companies to continue the attack. The attack was renewed and elements of the rifle companies reached an embankment only twenty yards from the German positions. The First Battalion commander then disregarded exploding grenades and enfilading tank fire and led his men in the assault, which finally carried the enemy positions. For his actions of that day Lieutenant Colonel Wallace was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁶

Companies "B" and "C" succeeded in crossing the open ground between the Bois dit de Rothleible and the Chateau de Schoppenwihr. Three of the six enemy tanks had been knocked out by "bazooka" fire and the supporting artillery fire. A hot fight continued however throughout the day. Company "A" was unable to close in on the chateau from the north because of the powerful enemy resistance, but moved around through the Bois dit de Rothleible, and under the cover of a heavy smoke screen laid down by Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, crossed the open ground on the tanks and tank destroyers which were attached to the First Battalion. The First Battalion forces experienced difficulty in clearing the enemy from their well dug-in

Baler" company. Although the ditch provided inadequate protection from the automatic fire of advancing enemy Infantry, he calmly directed round after round of artillery on the foe from his prone position and hurled the Germans back to the shelter of a dike. For three hours he remained at his observation post despite wave after wave of German Infantry which surged forward. Each time the enemy were stopped before his position. As the last all-out German assault swept forward, he ordered the artillery to concentrate on his own location. Friendly shells exploded near him and wounded his assistant, yet First Lieutenant Connor continued to direct artillery fire on the assault enemy elements swarming around him until the German attack was shattered and broken. By his exemplary heroism he was responsible for the killing of approximately 50, and the wounding of an estimated 100 Germans. For his heroism First Lieutenant Connor was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁸

Using the artillery and all supporting weapons to the fullest extent the Second and Third Battalions repulsed the strong enemy counter-attacks of 24 January 1945. The Seventh Infantry troops highly praised the accurate shooting of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, commanded by Captain Orlando A. Richardson, Jr., Company "A", 601st



Five of the 10 members of the Regiment who were killed in action on 24 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Harry J. Brinkey, Co. "E"; (2) Pfc Sterling B. G. Hall, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (3) T/5 John T. McBride, Co. "G"; (4) Sgt. Ernest C. Schultz, Co. "E"; (5) Pfc Norman Silberstein, Co. "E".

positions in and around the chateau but succeeded in the end, with Company "A" and the supporting armor giving it full fighting strength. The Chateau de Schoppenwihr was captured, and the area to the west between the railroad tracks and La Fecht River was cleared of enemy at 1850, after an all-day fight.

Captain Withhold F. Dylewski and First Lieutenant Walter R. Warne of Company "D", and First Lieutenant Richard L. Kerr and Private First Class Arthur F. Burr of Company "B" were cited for actions performed on that day.¹⁷

While the First Battalion battled for the Chateau de Schoppenwihr the Third Battalion experienced a rough time, as well, battling on the Regiment's left. A powerful enemy force consisting of an estimated 600 fanatical German Infantrymen, supported by six Mark VI or "Tiger" tanks, tank destroyers and artillery, counter-attacked from the southeast and east. The Second Battalion which had moved to Objective "Z" also was hit by an enemy counter-attack from the south.

First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor of Third Battalion Headquarters Company performed with extraordinary heroism during this critical time. He ran through the impact area of enemy artillery concentrations and directed friendly artillery fire on enemy forces. Unreeling a spool of telephone wire as he ran, he plunged into a shallow ditch thirty yards beyond the foremost "Cotton

Tank Destroyer Battalion, commanded by Captain Francis X. Lambert, and other supporting elements which played a primary role in stopping the enemy. A total of nine enemy tanks were knocked out by their accurate fire, but not without losses, as six American pieces of armor were destroyed by the enemy.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol moved south from Ostheim and joined the First Battalion at the Chateau de Schoppenwihr during the evening.

Enemy Infantry had succeeded in getting a toehold in the southern portion of the Brunnwald patch of woods and reinforced their positions during the night. The Third Battalion raided the enemy there and encountered mortar fire and stiff opposition in a machine gun and small arms fight. Company "L", commanded by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley, maneuvered around the tip of the woods and encountered three enemy machine guns and a flakwagon in a fierce fight. Company "K" remained in contact with the enemy throughout the night.

¹⁶ For authority see GO No. 442, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 27 Aug. '45.

¹⁷ GOs No. 89, 113, 208 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 & 29 Mar., 12 June & 25 Sept. '45. Capt. Dylewski, 1 Lt. Kerr, 1 Lt. Warne & Pfc Burr were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁸ For authority see GO No. 47, HQ, 7th Army, 10 Feb. '45.

7th INFANTRY MAKES ALL-OUT ATTACK 25 JANUARY 1945

Following heavy artillery and mortar concentrations laid on Houssen and adjacent areas by the supporting weapons, the Seventh Infantry launched an all-out attack to the south with attached armor supporting the three battalions, at daybreak 25 January 1945. Only Company "I" did not participate in the attack. "Item" Company was left to contain the enemy in the southern portion of the Brunnwald woods.

The First Battalion attacked on the right, from the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, for the Station de Bennwihr, Mariafeld Ferme and Rosenkranz. The Second Battalion attacked in the center with the Third Battalion on the left as Houssen was the objective of both, and was divided into two equal attacking zones.

The enemy were well entrenched before the towns and put up a stiff fight before withdrawing into the villages themselves and there fighting bitterly. At about 0600 hours when his platoon was caught in the cross-fire of three enemy machine guns, Technical Sergeant Harry E. Havens of Company "G" mounted a friendly tank and directed fire which killed seven of ten Germans who were defending a position. The others withdrew. He then charged on foot through enemy fire and burst into an enemy-held house, killed two Germans and dispersed other enemy soldiers. After leading his men through anti-tank and "88" fire in the capture of three enemy guns, Technical Sergeant Havens assaulted a communications trench, captured four Germans, then led a house to house fight for the possession of twelve buildings in Houssen. Through his fearless leadership 15 Germans were killed, 10 wounded and 30 captured. For his extraordinary heroism in action he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.¹⁹

First elements of the Second and Third Battalions entered Houssen between 0730 and 0800 that day and both battalions claimed the honors which go to first entry of a place. The Third Battalion took 50 prisoners and reported that the bulk of 700 enemy was withdrawing from the town because of the pressure of the attack but there were many Germans left with plenty of fight.

Many gallant actions were performed that day. With M-1 rifle fire Private First Class George W. Clark of

Company "G" killed the gunner and three other Germans who manned an anti-tank gun that had disabled a friendly tank destroyer. Second Lieutenant Lester H. Norve of Company "F" singlehandedly eliminated an enemy strong-point that was holding up the advance of his company, by killing four Germans with a 30 round burst of "Tommy-Gun" fire and then took four other enemy prisoners. Sergeant Ellis P. Hull of Company "G" eliminated another enemy defensive position with grenade fire that killed two Germans and forced others to flee. Private First Class William C. King, also of Company "G", who was himself killed in a subsequent action, killed two Germans in a bitter street fight in Houssen. First Lieutenant Charles W. Webb, Private First Class William G. Coon and Private First Class Leon P. Looney, all of Company "H" and each wounded in action during the fighting, effectively rendered heavy weapons support to the attacking riflemen. Sergeant Walter V. Albritton of Company "G" made a daring, singlehanded assault on a German position, killed two, wounded four and captured six of the enemy. Private First Class Joseph A. A. Beaudoin of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, Staff Sergeant James L. McIntyre of Company "E" and Sergeant Ralph D. Hollars of Company "G" conducted themselves with distinction.²⁰

Meanwhile on the right, First Battalion forces had captured thirty-one Germans, including two officers, and by 0900 had seized the Station de Bennwihr and Mariafeld Ferme, and was fighting a sharp engagement for Rosenkranz.

Company "I" launched an attack that cleared the Brunnwald wood patch and drove the Germans there into the open where they were killed or taken prisoners.

The enemy launched a counter-attack against the First Battalion and followed that up with another against the Second and Third Battalions. Bitter fighting ensued.

¹⁹ For authority see GO No. 185, HQ, 7th Army, 10 May '45.

²⁰ GOs No. 77, 89, 113, 130, 168, 175, 249 & 264, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1, 9 & 29 Mar., 13 Apr., 20 & 24 May, 10 & 19 July '45. 1 Lt. Webb was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 2 Lt. Norve, S/Sgt. McIntyre, Sgts. Albritton, Hollars & Hull, Pfc's Beaudoin, Coon, Clark, Looney & King were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



KILLED IN ACTION

Photos of 11 of the 23 "Cotton Balers" who lost their lives on 25 January 1945 are here shown.

(1) Pfc Clyde J. Adkins, 3 bn. Hq. Co.; (2) Pfc Byron G. Camp, Jr., Co. "G"; (3) Pfc Benito C. Diaz, Co. "E"; (4) Pvt. Charles W. Fleming, Co. "G"; (5) S/Sgt. John H. Forkey, Co. "F"; (6) Pfc Vincent E. Hiland, Co. "E"; (7) Pfc Donald W. Hurd, Co. "E"; (8) Pfc Anton Kuttin, Jr., Co. "G"; (9) Pfc Emmett R. Teague, Co. "E"; (10) Pvt. Theodore E. Turpin, Co. "F"; (11) 1 Lt. Robert W. Smitherman, Co. "G".

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS VALDEZ DISPLAYS CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY

During the fighting for Rosenkranz by the First Battalion, Private First Class Jose F. Valdez, a Browning automatic rifleman of Company "B", performed with conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, and sacrificed his life to stem the attacking enemy. At 0900 hours he killed three Germans in a fire duel at about fifty yards range and then engaged two companies of Germans who were infiltrating through the woods and deluging his position with automatic and rifle fire at close ranges.

Private First Class Valdez voluntarily covered the withdrawal of his hopelessly outnumbered five-man patrol, and continued his singlehanded fight until he was mortally wounded in the stomach. Alone and dying, he directed devastating mortar and artillery fire on the enemy for fifteen minutes. His directions brought the supporting fire to within fifty yards of his own position, killed an estimated fifty Germans and constituted the major factor in the repulse of the enemy counter-attack. Private First Class Valdez was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. It was the sixth award of the nation's highest valor medal to a "Cotton Baler" for action in World War II.²¹

The counter-attacks were stopped early in the afternoon with heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. Company "G" contacted Company "C" in Rosenkranz and the town was cleared of Germans, as was Houssen.

During the actions which stopped the enemy thrusts, gallantry was shown by Sergeant Fred O. Mongold and Private John V. Olsen of Company "H", Private Carlo A. Parisi of Company "D", Private Peter T. Munderville of Company "A", Staff Sergeant George P. Grabner and Private First Class Tom G. Roderick of Company "I", Private First Class Grover E. Hungerford of the Medical Detachment and Private First Class Francis X. Jablonski of Company "G".²²

Early 26 January, enemy were seen forming south of Rosenkranz and Houssen for an attack. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, fired heavy concentrations on the enemy groups and dispersed them.

The First Battalion attacked enemy in bunker positions in the Bois de la Fecht and in turn was counter-attacked. The enemy attack was stopped, then the "Cotton Balers" of "Able" and "Baker" Companies advanced through the woods and cleared out nests and bunker positions.

Company "A" encountered small arms and machine gun fire, some tank and mortar fire, but succeeded in advancing. A number of enemy were killed and fourteen captured. The company penetrated through the woods to a place where La Fecht River and the road from Station de Bennwihr both bend and nearly touch. The First Battalion then established its line from that point, northeast along the road, through the Station de Bennwihr, and east to Rosenkranz.

At 1030 the Third Battalion received a strong enemy counter-attack by German Infantry supported by four tanks from the east. Artillery and mortars were brought to bear on the enemy to support the riflemen and the enemy attack was repulsed.

East of Houssen a dyke ran north and south. Though the enemy attack had been thrown back from the vicinity of Houssen the Germans were well entrenched behind the dyke. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges ordered the Blue Battalion to attack the enemy positions, clean out the troublesome area and extend the Regimental line on the left to the Ill.

THIRD BATTALION CLEANS OUT ENEMY BETWEEN DYKE AND L'ILL RIVER

Following receipt of his orders Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey alerted Companies "L" and "I" and the Regimental Battle Patrol to participate in the attack.

Following artillery preparations the attacking forces jumped off at 1300. Company "I" under the command of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony moved south out of the Brunnwald woods. The Battle Patrol supported by armor and led by Second Lieutenant Stanley Petropolis moved east out of Houssen while Company "L" led by First Lieutenant Orville L. Dille moved south out of Houssen along the dyke.

Cannon Company fired into a 400 yard zone at the southern end of the dyke and the assault guns of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, fired heavy interdictions on four points south toward Colmar.

Company "I" and the Battle Patrol both encountered heavy small arms and machine gun fire from enemy in strong positions. Second Lieutenant Petropolis was killed during the action.

Company "L" encountered small arms fire but succeeded in advancing. As the three attacking elements routed out enemy the 10th Field Artillery Battalion had a field day firing on enemy personnel in the open fields. By late afternoon the mission of the Third Battalion forces was accomplished. The enemy strong points were reduced and the Regimental line pushed to L'Ill River.

First Lieutenant William D. Anthony of Company "I", Staff Sergeant Robert A. Higgins and Private First Class Willard K. Seymour of Company "L", Staff Sergeant Joe W. Tussey of the Battle Patrol, and Private First Class Gilbert E. Vasquez of Company "M", distinguished themselves during the actions of 26 January 1945.²³

The valiant "Cotton Balers" of the Seventh Infantry Regiment had been in continuous attack since 22 January 1945. They had done so well that the Third Division commander planned to employ them again in the assault for his second phase of the attack on the "Colmar Pocket".

During the four-day attack the Seventh Infantry had cleared the western half of the Forêt Communale de Colmar, the Bois dit de Rothleible, Brunnwald and the Bois de la Fecht and also liberated Ostheim, Houssen, Rosenkranz, the Station de Bennwihr and Chateau de Schoppenwihr. A large number of enemy had been killed; 383 Germans including five officers had been taken prisoners of war. All this was not accomplished without sacrifice; four officers and 69 enlisted men lost their lives during the fighting. A total of 284 were wounded. There were 145 non-battle casualties.

During the night of 26-27 January 1945 the Seventh Infantry was relieved on position from La Fecht to L'Ill River by the 109th Infantry of the 28th Infantry Division, which was to hold until the Seventh Infantry could

²¹ 7th Infantry "Cotton Baler", Vol. 1, No. 34, Hersfeld, Germany, 26 Apr. '46.

²² GOs No. 77, 113, 163, 168, 182 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 & 29 Mar., 16, 20 & 28 May & 4 Oct. '45. S/Sgt. Grabner & Pfc Hungerford were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Sgt. Mongold, Pfc Jablonski & Roderick, Pfts. Munderville, Olsen & Parisi were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²³ GOs No. 54, 77, 113, 168 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 Feb., 1 & 29 Mar., 20 May & 4 Oct. '45. 1 Lt. Anthony & Pfc Vasquez were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Higgins & Tussey & Pfc Seymour were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

be maneuvered around to the east for a night assault across the Canal de Colmar. Enemy artillery fire was received while the relief was conducted. By 270500 the Second Battalion had assembled in the Bois dit de Rothleible while the First and Third Battalions had assembled in the Forêt Communale de Colmar south of the Niederwald settlement. Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, was temporarily released from attachment and moved to the wood north of Holtzwihr where it remained in Division reserve.

SITUATION ON THE LEFT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

As the Seventh Infantry had successfully attacked south between La Fecht and L'III Rivers the 30th Infantry met with a catastrophe and was so badly hurt that it was kept out of offensive action for quite some time thereafter.

The night of 22-23 January the 30th Infantry assault elements successfully crossed the eastern half of the Forêt Communale de Colmar and at daybreak crossed L'III River. By 0900 its First Battalion was completely across the river and moved south along the east bank to the bridge at La Maison Rouge which was seized. Patrols were sent toward new objectives. The Third Battalion crossed over the seized bridge at noontime and was followed by the Second Battalion in the afternoon. The foot elements of the entire "Frisan" Regiment were east of L'III River and were driven for their objectives, though no armor was on hand to support them. The First Battalion closed on Riedwihr, the Third on Holtzwihr and the Second went into the Bois de Riedwihr. Company "L" remained at La Maison Rouge bridge to accompany supporting armor when it should cross over L'III River. At 1600 Companies "I" and "K" entered the northern edge of Holtzwihr, but fifty minutes later an unknown number of enemy tanks supported by Infantry attacked the Third Battalion forces with such strength that they were forced to withdraw across L'III River. The First Battalion attacked Riedwihr at 1722 on 23 January. It met no opposition until it was about 100 yards north of the town when the enemy opened up with heavy grazing fire from tanks and automatic weapons that "caused considerable confusion and forced the Battalion to withdraw." Meanwhile the Second Battalion in the Bois de Riedwihr was also hit by powerful enemy forces at 1800 and it too was forced back across L'III River. A misfortune of war occurred at 1730 that black day for the 30th Infantry, when the first medium tank to cross L'III River at La Maison Rouge broke through the bridge and because of that no friendly armor was able to support the Infantrymen. All 30th Infantry battalions were back on the west side of the river. The Regiment had suffered heavy casualties in killed and wounded and was badly crippled. The enemy had captured large numbers of the 30th Infantry troops. The First Battalion withdrew its tattered remnants to the Forêt Communale de Colmar while the Second Battalion withdrew as far as Ostheim where it went into Division reserve and also during the hours of darkness the Third Battalion withdrew to the town of Guemar, where just the night before it had crossed La Fecht River at full strength. All 30th Infantry battalions rehabilitated and commenced the work of reorganization.²⁴

The 15th Infantry which was initially in Third Division reserve was moved to assembly areas in Forêt Communale de Colmar during the afternoon of 23 January. During the withdrawal of the 30th Infantry elements, the Third Battalion of the 15th Infantry was ordered to move to the vicinity of La Maison Rouge and

contain the bridgehead over L'III River. At 0300 on 24 January the battalion attacked to enlarge the bridgehead. In the morning the enemy threw a counter-attack at the "Dragon" battalion. Four enemy tanks and Infantrymen overran Company "I". A bitter fight ensued and later in the day the First Battalion attacked through the Third and was reinforced with two platoons of tanks and one platoon of tank destroyers.²⁵

The next few days saw some bitter fighting east of L'III River and it was not until 1030 on 26 January 1945 that Riedwihr was completely captured by the 15th Infantry.²⁶

The 30th Infantry reorganized and rehabilitated in Ostheim and Guemar. On the 25th its Second Battalion returned to the east side of L'III River and took up defensive positions. The other two battalions of the regiment continued to reorganize.²⁷ The First Battalion moved during the afternoon of 26 January from Guemar across L'III River to the Bois de Riedwihr, where it joined Combat Command 4 of the Second French Armored Division. The Third Battalion moved during the night to the vicinity of La Maison Rouge. Early on 27 January the French armor, followed by the 30th Infantry elements, attacked south towards the Canal de Colmar. Light resistance was encountered and overcome. Holtzwihr and Wickershihr were captured by the French and 30th Infantry elements, with the small total of thirty-four enemy captured.²⁸

Meanwhile the 254th Infantry Regiment, which had advanced to the Weiss River on the west of La Fecht River, was relieved by elements of the 28th Infantry Division. The 254th Infantry was then brought around to the Third Infantry Division's battered left flank. Late on 25 January the 254th Infantry attacked for Jepsheim and after hard fighting completely captured the town on the 28th.

During the period 22-28 January the French Foreign Legion and other mixed elements of the French forces on the left engaged in stiff fighting as well and captured Illhaeusern, Elsenheim and Grussenheim.

PHASE TWO OF THE ATTACK 29-31 JANUARY 1945

PLANS FOR THE ASSAULT

While "Cotton Baler" troops remained assembled in the Bois dit de Rothleible and Forêt Communale de Colmar, and other troops of the Third Infantry Division, with the French, fought to clear the area east of L'III River and north of the Canal de Colmar, plans were made by higher headquarters for Phase II of the assault on the "Colmar Pocket".

On 27 January the Third Infantry Division issued instructions for "Operation Kraut Buster", which called for a crossing of the Canal de Colmar by stealth at 2100 the night of 28 January.²⁹

The plan called for the Seventh Infantry, this time with the 15th Infantry, to be in the assault wave again.

²⁴ G-3 Report No. 24, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 24 Jan. '45.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ G-3 Report No. 26, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 26 Jan. '45.

²⁷ G-3 Report No. 25, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 25 Jan. '45.

²⁸ G-3 Report No. 27, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Ribeauville, France, 27 Jan. '45.

²⁹ Operation Instruction No. 16, "Kraut Buster", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 27 Jan. '45.

The two regiments were to cross the Canal de Colmar and seize the towns of Bischwihr, Muntzenheim, Wihr-en-Plaine and Portschwih, then hold, on Line C-D, within their respective zones. If surprise should be lost then the maximum of prepared fires were to be employed by the regiments. The 10th Engineers, with the Third Battalion 40th Engineers attached, were to support the crossings with one Infantry footbridge per assault battalion and two Class 40 bridges at Sites 1, 2 or 3. The Third Infantry Division Artillery was to support the crossings and subsequent action with prearranged fires massed in the zone of advance. A deception fire program was to be conducted between the 74 and 76 eastings from darkness until midnight D-Day or until surprise should happen to be lost.

On the right the 28th Infantry Division was to make a simultaneous limited attack and seize the Line C-D in its zone.

The 30th Infantry, still smarting from its wounds, was to continue its mission of holding, and protect the Division's right with particular attention to the gap on the right. The 254th Infantry on the left was also to continue its mission and hold the lines in its zone. Both holding regiments were to be prepared to assemble on Division order.

On Third Division order, Combat Command 4 of Cinquieme Division Blindée was to attack through Line C-D in the Seventh Infantry zone, while on order of the II French Corps, under which the Third Infantry Division was then operating, other commands of the French armored division were to exploit through Line C-D in the 15th Infantry sector and move south and southeast on Neuf-Brisach.

At a meeting of all unit commanders and staffs to discuss plans, the commanding officer of the French armor which was scheduled to exploit through the American Infantry, after the assault across the canal and the capture of the first line of four towns south of the canal was accomplished, refused to move his armor unless there would be a prior artillery preparation. Whether there was to be a prior preparation by the artillery or not should not have troubled the French commander because his forces were not to be brought into play against the enemy until the attack was several hours old and the canal was assaulted and bridged and a sizeable piece of land held south of the canal.

During the second phase of the "Colmar Pocket" attack the Seventh Infantry was to be supported initially by its regular attachments from the 756th Tank Battalion and the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion. Before the attack was a day old French armored units, though not officially attached to the Regiment, were to also operate with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Close cooperation, understanding and teamwork between the Seventh Infantry rifle units and the supporting armored units did not exist during the second big attack of the campaign in the "Colmar Pocket". There were two reasons for the lack of vital team play, namely, that the American and French armor each had a tendency to want to let the "other fellow do it" and also the French units did not always know what was expected of them by the Seventh Infantry commanders. Better liaison between the attacking units could have been established.

Because of the objections of the French commander but probably more so because American engineers did not have sufficient time to bring in enough small rubber boats and Bailey bridging materiel, it was decided to delay the operation twenty-four hours and then to precede the attack by an artillery, mortar and smoke preparation of thirty minutes.

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges and his staff completed plans for the part to be played by the Seventh Infantry. The First and Third Battalions were once more to be in the assault. They were to cross the canal by boats and capture the town of Bischwihr with the First Battalion seizing Objectives 1 and 2, and the Third Battalion Objectives 3, 4 and 5. Following construction of foot bridges by the engineers, the Second Battalion was to cross the canal over the bridges, pass through the First Battalion and seize Wihr-en-Plaine, Objectives 6 and 7. The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, attached to the Second Battalion, was to seize Objective "T" near Bailey Bridge Site 1.

Anti-Tank Company was to assemble in Riedwihr and be prepared to cross the canal on Regimental order to establish anti-tank defense. Cannon Company was directed to displace by infiltration to firing positions near the Bois de Riedwihr and be prepared with the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Company "C", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion to support the attack. Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were to place their supporting armor in direct firing positions just north of the canal during darkness of D-Day prepared to fire on targets of opportunity west of the No Fire Line (A-B). They were to fire in Bischwihr only on targets specifically designated by red rifle flares from the assaulting battalions. The light tanks of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, and the flakwagons of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion attached to the Regiment were to be initially placed under the control of the commanding officer, Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and occupy direct firing positions in the same zone under his direction.

Upon completion of the Bailey bridge at Site 1 the attachments were to cross over the Canal de Colmar on order of the Regimental Commander and be attached to the battalions. The Second Battalion was to get the most support for its attack on Wihr-en-Plaine: five medium tanks, four light tanks, four tank destroyers, two flakwagons, a platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars and a gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company. The Third Battalion was to have three medium tanks, three tank destroyers, two flakwagons, a platoon of 4.2 chemical mortars and a gun platoon from Anti-Tank Company. The First Battalion was to draw only three tank destroyers, two flakwagons and a platoon from Anti-Tank Company, as it was to be in reserve following passage through by the Second Battalion. Company "A", 10th Engineers, was responsible for the bridge building. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, under the competent direction of the "Fedalaman", Captain Hal Ferguson, was prepared to establish a collecting point in Riedwihr and to evacuate the battle casualties.

The Canal de Colmar runs from the junction of the Canal de la Lauch and L'Ill River, 900 yards northeast of Colmar, due east to the Canal du Rhone au Rhin. It is approximately 50 feet wide and from six to eight feet deep. The water level of the canal is several feet above the level of the flat land of the Alsace Plain as it is banked by steep levees twelve feet high, which are fifteen feet in width at the bottom and eight feet in width at the top. The current of the water was slow. Though not frozen over, the water was very cold. Because of the steep banks and the fact the assaulting Infantrymen would be above the level of the land commanders were more concerned than if the "dog-faces" were assaulting a river line. It appeared to be a more difficult assignment.

While the "Cotton Balers" waited in the snow-covered woods for the next attack they suffered much from the cold. The bunker positions formerly used by

the Germans were used to the fullest extent but there were not enough of them to house all the men. A few tents were pitched but many men slept in snow fox holes and utilized tree branches as best they could. Counting the night of the relief when they moved back to the forested areas they spent three nights and three days in the area. The Regimental Surgeon, Major Edmund B. Sinclair, made an inspection of the battalions on the 27th and reported that there were at least 200 cases of frozen feet which if not treated would develop into trench feet. The worst cases were sent to Beblenheim to receive medical care. That day 80 new reinforcements, a small number, were ready to report to the rifle companies, many of which were low in strength, but the reinforcements were without shoe pacs or over-shoes. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges ordered that they be withheld from assignment to the rifle elements until properly equipped. Many matters beset the Commanding Officer but plans were pushed for the next assault. "Cotton Balers" suffered much, torn in mind and body, as they were, but with the determination to uphold the great traditions of the Regiment of overcoming all

obstacles they stuck grimly to their assignments and prepared to smash the enemy once more.

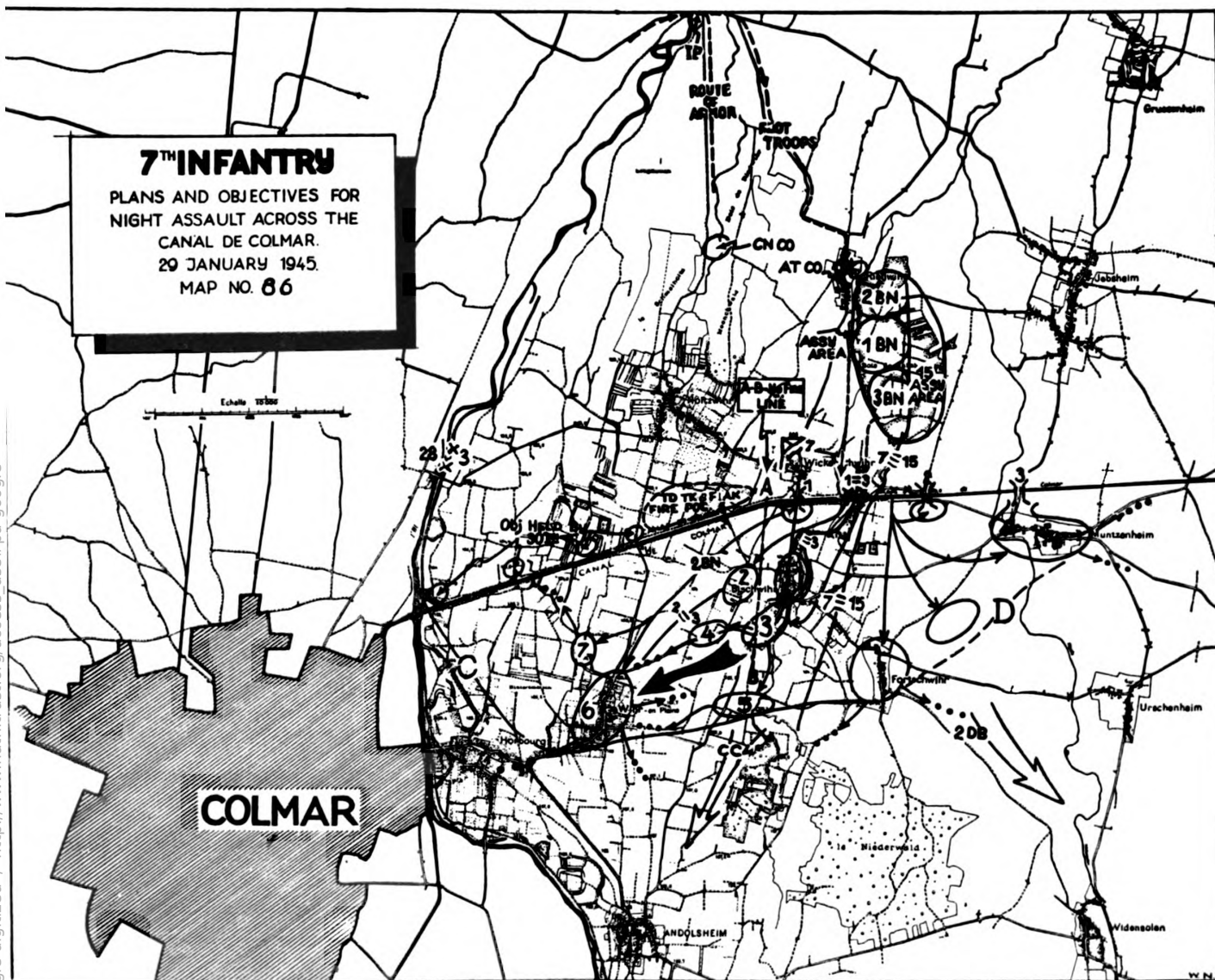
Patrols were sent to the banks of the Canal de Colmar nightly. Though the area between Holtzwihr and the Canal de Colmar and west to L'Ill River had been reported clear by the 30th Infantry, some enemy still operated there nightly. The night of 28-29 January 1945 a patrol from Company "A" moved south out of Wickerswihr and drew fire from north of the Canal and due west. Privates John M. Svalina and William V. Williams were killed by the enemy fire. Outlook for the crossing the next night did not appear too promising.



Pvt. John M. Svalina (1) and Pvt. William V. Williams, both of Co. "A", were killed in action on 27 January 1945.

7TH INFANTRY

PLANS AND OBJECTIVES FOR
NIGHT ASSAULT ACROSS THE
CANAL DE COLMAR.
29 JANUARY 1945.
MAP NO. 86



7th INFANTRY MOVES INTO POSITION FOR ITS SECOND ASSAULT OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" CAMPAIGN

During the afternoon of 29 January the Seventh Infantry Combat Team commenced moving into firing positions and forward assembly areas for the night assault which was to start at 2100. With the Third, First and Second Battalions in order, the foot troops commenced moving out of the Forêt Communale de Colmar and Bois dit de Rothleible at 1700, crossed L'Ille River by La Maison Rouge bridge and completely closed into their forward assembly areas in the Bois de Jebshheim at 1900. The armor and flak wagons took up their firing positions and Anti-Tank Company moved into Riedwihr as scheduled.

Tactical vehicles of the battalions and Regimental Headquarters experienced much difficulty however in moving over the road which crossed L'Ille River at La Maison Rouge bridge as the French armor and vehicles got on the road, and completely blocked it for hours. It was the only road that could be used and it was impossible to detour through the deep snow fields. The French, who were not to be in the assault, started using the road several hours before it was actually necessary for them to do so. The traffic jams that resulted prevented the 15th Infantry from jumping off in the assault on time and was the direct cause of the assistant Third Division commander attempting to halt the attack of the Seventh Infantry while it was in progress. Better liaison between Third Division Headquarters and the French command would have prevented such a dilemma. Much cursing and swearing was heard before the traffic jam was broken in places and the vehicles inched their way to the turn-off just east of La Maison Rouge and then moved uninterrupted to the battalion areas and Riedwihr.

The Regimental Command Post set up in Riedwihr just fifteen minutes before H-Hour while the artillery preparations were under way. Lieutenant Colonel Heintges went on to Wickerschwihr where he set up an advanced post that he might keep in closer touch with operations. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro, Executive Officer, and Major Young, Regimental S-3, remained at the post in Riedwihr.

THE ASSAULT ACROSS THE CANAL DE COLMAR

At 2025 an intense preparation by twenty battalions of medium and heavy artillery, Cannon Company, Company "C", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and all supporting weapons of the Regiment opened up on the Canal de Colmar, enemy rear areas and concentration areas and continued firing until H+80, then lifted to fire on designated areas and targets of opportunity.

It was a cold night with no moon shining. The flash of the roaring artillery and cannon lit up the whole sky. The shells crashed into enemy positions with great explosions. "Cotton Balers" left their forward areas in tactical formations for the Canal de Colmar carrying parties transported the rubber boats to the north bank of the Canal. It was nearly time to cross.

At two minutes before H-Hour, after the artillery had roared for thirty-three minutes and the assault "Cotton Balers" were in the process of pushing their rubber boats over the north bank of the Canal de Colmar and into its icy waters, the assistant Third Infantry Division commander, Brigadier General Robert T. Young, called the Regimental War Room in Riedwihr by phone, and threw consternation into the room, which

was a beehive of activity, when he asked Lieutenant Colonel Thobro: "Can you stop the battalions from moving out?"

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro replied: "I don't think so as they should be crossing now."

"How about your bridging?" asked the assistant Third Division commander.

"We do not need it right away, as we are depending mostly on rubber boats for the crossing," explained the Seventh Infantry Executive Officer.

Brigadier General Young then said: "Well, the 15th doesn't have its bridging and I want to arrange a jump-off at 2230. We will fire the preparation all over again. Try to stop them and let me know in fifteen minutes."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro expressed doubts that the Seventh Infantry attack could be stopped and asked, "Is that an order?"

The assistant Third Division commander replied: "Yes."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro then said: "I'll try to stop them but it is now three minutes past 2100, and they should be crossing now."*

At that the conversation ended and Lieutenant Colonel Thobro went out of the little room to contact the Commanding Officer in Wickerschwihr.

It was impossible to stop the inimitable "Cotton Balers" once they had jumped off in the attack. Though some could have been halted, not all units could be contacted on a split second's notice and it was better to let the "7th Light Foot" go through with its plans even though the 15th Infantry could not jump off on time.

At 2115 another call came from the 15th Infantry Command Post. First Lieutenant Nathan W. White, liaison officer, received the call and was asked: "Can you stop the crossing?" His reply was: "I don't think so." Brigadier General Young then requested to speak to Major Richard T. Young, the Seventh Infantry S-3. The questions he put to Major Young were: "Can you stop the crossing? Have you contact with the C.O.?" Major Young told him: "S.X. has gone to the O.P. personally to try to stop the operation. We should have an answer within ten minutes." Brigadier General Young then ordered: "Call me back at the 15th Infantry and let me know as soon as possible."

While these conversations were carried on, the First and Third Battalions, functioning smoothly, had initiated the crossing operations on the exact second of H-Hour, at 2100. The artillery preparations were not answered by the enemy's guns and no opposition was encountered at the crossing sites, though a little later mortar fire was received on the Regiment's left flank.

At 2120 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges called the Regimental War Room from his observation post and reported that two rifle companies were completely across the canal and that the operation was progressing very satisfactorily. He stated that he could not stop the operation at that time.

At 2138 the commander of the Third Infantry Division, Major General John W. O'Daniel, who had been caught in the traffic jam himself and had just opened a forward command post of his own in Riedwihr, called the Regimental War Room and demanded the situation. When told how matters were progressing, he barked in his best fighting voice: "O.K. keep pushing," and the conversation was over.

* Unit Journal, 7th U. S. Infantry, 29 Jan. '45.

The entire First and Third Battalion troops crossed the Canal de Colmar without incident and moved for their objectives.

Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey's Blue Battalion moved speedily against no opposition initially, bypassed Bischwihr on the left to enter the town from the south. Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W. Wallace's Red Battalion encountered enemy in the vicinity of Bridge Site 1. Enemy tank and machine gun fire began to be received.

Company "B" under Captain James B. Rich engaged the enemy in a small arms fight near the bridge site while the remainder of the Red Battalion companies pushed for Bischwihr, to enter it from the north.

At 2245 both the First and Third Battalion troops were in Bischwihr. At 2350 Company "B" had cleaned out all resistance in the vicinity of the bridge site and captured twenty-four Germans. The Third Battalion had encountered some resistance going into Bischwihr from the south but took twenty-eight prisoners of war. At midnight the First and Third Battalions reported Bischwihr all clear. However the report was a little premature as new resistance developed and fighting was resumed.

The resistance in Bischwihr was quickly overcome and the two battalions rounded up an additional group of forty-seven enemy between them. The Third Battalion pushed on to the road junction southwest of Bischwihr. The Seventh Infantry was first to cross the Canal de Colmar and was first to capture a town south of the canal.

As the First and Third Battalions carried out their assignments the Second Battalion under Major Jack M. Duncan stood ready to be committed. Though in reserve initially, the White Battalion was to see the toughest fighting during the second phase of the assault on the "Colmar Pocket". At 2155 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges

ordered Major Duncan to start moving his troops out of the assembly area in the Bois de Jebbsheim.

Company "A", 10th Engineers, commenced construction of two footbridges over the Canal de Colmar at 2205 and completed the work at 2245. At 2330 the White Battalion troops started crossing over the bridges. At midnight two companies were across and were moving on Wihr-en-Plaine. At 0130 as the forward elements approached the town, enemy tank fire was received and a hot reception was promised.

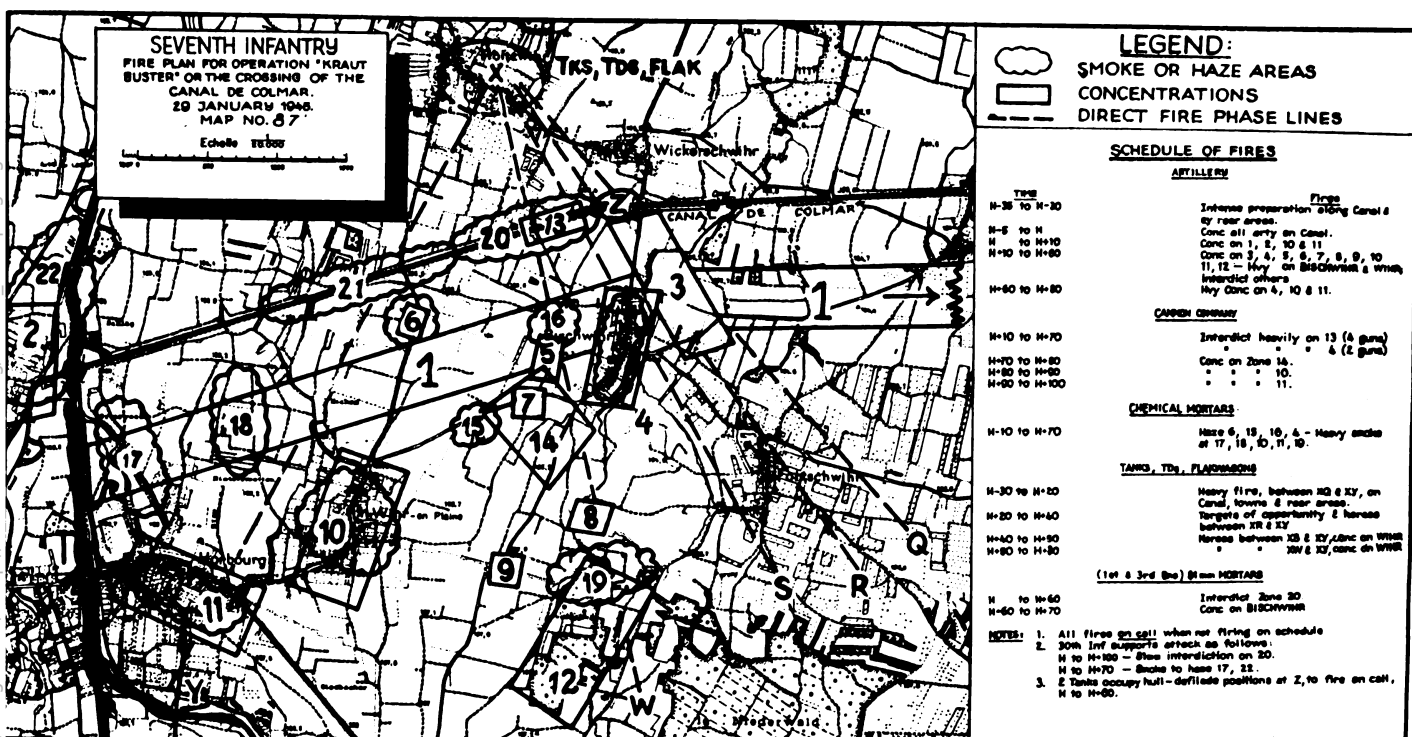
"Fox" Company, under the command of First Lieutenant Earl F. Swanson, and "George" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane, boldly pushed on and entered Wihr-en-Plaine at 0205.

At 0300 the Second Battalion was halted by enemy tanks which rolled over the assaulting riflemen. Private First Class Joseph L. Bale of Second Battalion Headquarters Company fearlessly attacked with his rocket launcher. Ignoring shells which exploded nearby and machine gun bullets which raked his position, he knocked out an enemy tank and forced some of the Germans to withdraw.

A fierce fight was fought in the darkness and at 0630 the enemy counter-attacked the White Battalion forces with Infantry and armor. At 0745 all fighting elements of the Second Battalion were in the town and fought a fierce fight with enemy on three sides.

The fighting in Wihr-en-Plaine became severe and the Second Battalion was momentarily thrown on the defensive. Sergeant James R. Fox of Company "E" was severely wounded but successfully defended four houses in the town with his six-man squad, from attacks by a hostile tank and about forty Germans who were part of the powerful force counter-attacking the village. Staff Sergeant David F. Holder of Company "H" was also outstanding during the actions.³⁰

³⁰ GOS No. 208, 211 & 306, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 15 June & 20 Aug. '45. 1 Lt. Kyte (posthumously), S/Sgt. Holder & Sgt. Fox were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.



The Germans succeeded in making a penetration between the rifle companies of the Second Battalion. About sixty of the enemy, supported by tanks, then attacked the Second Battalion Observation Post group and came very close to killing or capturing Major Jack M. Duncan and his entire command group. First Lieutenant George J. Kyte Jr., a forward observer for the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, speedily and accurately directed fire on the enemy armor and caused the German vehicles to change position and expose themselves to "bazooka" fire. His speedy action was an important factor in saving the command group from annihilation. In a subsequent action he was killed.³⁰ It was then that Private First Class Bale braved the enemy shell fire in a singlehanded attempt to destroy his second tank of the day, but he was killed in the attempt.

Private Mario Pomponio, a reinforcement of Company "E" with no previous combat experience, vaulted on to a six-foot wall and while exposed to blasts of automatic fire, killed a four-man machine gun crew at fifteen yards range with M-1 rifle fire. He then charged into the core of the enemy positions, killed a second machine gun crew and captured ten Germans after a fierce fire-fight. His intrepid, singlehanded assault was a major factor in breaking the enemy counter-attack. The brave and gallant young man was killed in the next day's fighting.

For their extraordinary heroism displayed on 30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, Private First Class Joseph L. Bale and Private Mario Pomponio were each posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³¹

Company "L" and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol rushed to the assistance of the White Battalion troops. The engineers, who were delayed in constructing the Bailey bridge at Site 1, completed the work at 0745 and twenty minutes later supporting armor commenced crossing, and also rushed to the support.

The tactical vehicles of the battalions, the chemical mortars, Regimental Anti-Tank Company and the flak-wagons followed the tanks and tank destroyers over the Bailey bridge to render additional support to the rifle-men.

By 1000 the White Battalion, with its reinforcements, beat off the enemy and at noontime controlled the northern half of Wihr-en-Plaine. The armor rendered valuable assistance. Private First Class Clarence Mitchum and Private John A. Nelson of Company "L", Sergeant Norman A. Deeke, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Private First Class Donald F. Rowles of the Battle Patrol were gallant during the action.³²

At 0945 that morning, Lieutenant Colonel William G. Rosson, Third Division G-3, called the Regimental War Room and gave the information that Combat Command 4 was beginning to roll. However the French armor did not roll very fast. At 1100 the Division G-3 called again and informed Major Young, Seventh Infantry S-3, to begin thinking of a possible crossing of the Rhone-Rhine Canal. The crossing site that he directed to be considered was the place where the canal divides so that actually two crossings in one would be necessary. He stated that if the new crossing operation were to be initiated, it would take place on one day's, or a day and a half, notice.

Meanwhile the Third Division commander directed that the Second Battalion capture Horbourg as well as Wihr-en-Plaine. At 1155 the Division G-3 called once more with the information that the French expected the Seventh Infantry to push a battalion through Le Niederwald and to cut the road east of Andolsheim, above

Maison Ferme d'Andolsheim and then occupy Andolsheim, once the French captured the place. He stated that the French armor should be moving in two hours. He repeated the instructions of the Division commander that the Second Battalion was to capture Horbourg and further stated that when the French were ready they would attack through Horbourg to Andolsheim.

The original plans of exploitation by French armor through Line C-D were not being carried out. The Seventh Infantry must go still further. Actually there was no exploitation in the true sense of the word. According to orders the First Battalion, in reserve in Bischwihr, was alerted to push on for Le Niederwald on Regimental order.

At 1430 that afternoon the combined forces of the Second Battalion, Company "L" and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol made a determined attack on enemy in the southern half of Wihr-en-Plaine and after a hard close-in fight cleared the entire town of enemy. The Battle Patrol then moved to the northwest to the vicinity of Eichen as security.

Colonel Lionel C. McGarr, commanding officer of the 30th Infantry, called at 1345 to report his regiment was having considerable trouble with enemy north of the Canal de Colmar and that his supporting weapons would continue to shoot at the junction of L'Ille River and Canal de Colmar. His report and request for help was a surprise to the Seventh Infantry commander because his very headquarters had previously reported the particular area clear of enemy. At 1445 the Second Battalion had reported what was thought to be an enemy company moving north along a road out of Horbourg to the canal. At 1506 the artillery reported the 30th Infantry was directing artillery on the junction of the road and Canal de Colmar, numbered 189. The Division Commander, because of these reports, became concerned with the situation both north and south of the canal on the



Three of the 20 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 30 January 1945 were: (1) Pfc Thomas F. Fanning, Co. "L"; (2) Pvt. Archie J. Morrison, Co. "C" and (3) Sgt. Robert E. Weaver, Co. "B".

west and at 1506 had called the Regimental War Room, which was then in Wickerschwihr, and ordered that the First Battalion be placed south of the Canal and make a sweep west to clean out enemy behind the Second Battalion and continue on to L'Ille River. His orders were relayed to Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, who was in Bischwihr. Accordingly the First Battalion was alerted to make the move at 1600.

At 1555 while Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, from his advanced post, conversed with Major Duncan in Wihr-en-Plaine, Major General O'Daniel cut in on the

³¹ For authority see GOs No. 185 & 279, HQ, 7th Army, 10 May & 28 June '45.

³² GOs No. 208, 212 & 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12, 16, & 24 June '45. Sgt. Deeke, Pfc Mitchum & Rowles & Pvt. Nelson were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

line and told the "Cotton Baler" commander: "The Second Battalion must attack on Horbourg tonight, within the next half hour and take the town."

The following is a verbatim report of the conversation that ensued:

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "The C.O. of the Second Battalion is on the line."

Major Duncan: "I agree that the town should be taken as soon as possible but I can't seem to effect the proper coordination with the French who are to accompany me in the attack."

Major General O'Daniel to Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "If both operations cannot go off, call off the First Battalion attack and the French will take care of the situation up on the Second Battalion's right. Push the operation on Horbourg. The 75th will push through you sometime before tomorrow morning. General Schlusser (French General) is willing to assist in cleaning out Wihr and taking Horbourg. Carry out the operation with the greatest possible speed and take the town prepared to move on to Andolsheim with another battalion. After the Second Battalion and French have taken Horbourg the Third Battalion will follow the French on the attack on Andolsheim. First Battalion will go down through the woods as planned."

The attack of the First Battalion to the west was cancelled and the smoke mission of the chemical mortars which was to screen the advance was also cancelled. Actually there was no need for an attack to the west by a full battalion. The reports of enemy in strength in that area were not based on accurate information.

At 1700 the First Battalion moved south out of Bischwihr and entered Le Niederwald. The advance was rapid and against light resistance. Companies "A" and "C" cut the road south of the woods to the northwest of Maison Ferme d'Andolsheim at 2035 the night of 30 January. The First Battalion Command Post set up at Pont de Chasse. French armor moved behind the troops through the woods.

The Division Commander called back at 1710 and asked: "What have you on the right rear?" Lieutenant Colonel Thobro told him that the Battle Patrol had been sent to cover the flank. Major General O'Daniel then said: "Will send you a platoon of the 601st Tank Destroyer Reconnaissance Company to patrol in behind and to the right of the Second Battalion. Have the reconnaissance platoon cover the area from the Canal to Horbourg and keep your flank secure. You can use your Battle Patrol with the reconnaissance platoon. If you don't have your Battle Patrol available organize some troops to go with the reconnaissance platoon."

Lieutenant Colonel Thobro replied: "We are afraid our Battle Patrol was the group which was thought to be enemy coming in on the flank from the west."

At 1830 the enemy struck back at the White Battalion forces and Company "L", in Wihr-en-Plaine, but were repelled with heavy losses.

SECOND BATTALION ATTACKS FOR HORBOURG NIGHT OF 30 JANUARY 1945

At 2230 the Second Battalion troops and Company "L" pushed off in the attack for Horbourg and were followed by a French Armored Infantry force of Combat Command 4 which intended to pass through the White Battalion troops once the road junction on the east edge of the town was taken. Little headway was made as stiff enemy resistance was encountered.

Companies "E" and "L" were in the lead. At 0120 on 31 January they were 300 yards short of the road

junction. Fifty yards were gained in the next three hours against strong resistance during the night and the troops were held up by an enemy anti-tank ditch. Company "E" was counter-attacked but repelled the enemy in a bitter fight. During the night the artillery placed "Time on Target" concentrations on Horbourg and Andolsheim. The chemical mortars directed 36 rounds into Andolsheim and set the town on fire. The enemy retaliated by scoring direct hits on the chemical mortar ammunition dump. Fire from four enemy self-propelled guns kept the American armor attached to the Second Battalion, and the French armor, off the road to the road junction. Because of the resistance encountered and the enemy fire coming up the road neither the American or French armor passed through the Infantrymen. The French armor was waiting for the road junction to be taken and then they would pass south on Andolsheim. The American armor was also waiting.

At 0145 the Division Commander called and said he wanted Horbourg taken by noontime. Because the resistance at the road junction held up the "Cotton Balers" the French felt it was too late to initiate their plans. There was talk of postponement.

The First Battalion in Le Niederwald reported at 0700 that there was 200 enemy in the patch of woods to the northwest, west of Laufgraben stream. Artillery fire was directed on the woods.

At 0745 Lieutenant Colonel Heintges called Major General O'Daniel to report and discuss plans. He said: "Horbourg is a sticky deal. Still have trouble with the French. Have two companies to commit and believe we can clear it up if the French will jump with us. The enemy is interdicting the road into Horbourg from the south and west of the river."

Major General O'Daniel: "There is a possibility that the Third Battalion will have to move to the woods at 775420 (the patch of woods northwest of Le Niederwald) and a shoot be laid on the area."

Lieutenant Colonel Heintges: "Three PWs were taken out of the woods this morning and they were convicts left out to fight. There were 400 enemy in the sector including Andolsheim according to the PWs. The French have jumped off in the direction of Andolsheim. Have three TDs with the Third Battalion."

The Division Commander: "Hold what you have got with the Third Battalion. May send a battalion from the 75th through. Continue to hit Horbourg with the Second Battalion and I'll get the French to push also. Use maximum artillery fire before the jump off."

The Third Battalion, minus its Company "L", was then alerted to move on the patch of woods northwest of Le Niederwald and plans were made for a renewed attack on the troublesome road junction and Horbourg.

In fairness to the commander of the French armor operating with the Second Battalion it should be said that he had his orders from his superiors in regard to when he should commit his tanks and like a soldier who obeys instructions he refused to throw his forces into the battle until the road junction was taken. However few operations go off as planned and as the situation develops units sometimes find themselves being committed earlier than expected. One of the main reasons for the lack of cooperation existing at that time was improper and insufficient liaison between the Americans and French. The "Cotton Balers" at this time were quite tired from their exertions since 22 January and were low in strength. Companies operated with only 20 to 50 men each. In such a weakened condition themselves they were not too anxious to press the attack on new objectives. On 30 January at 1305 Major Duncan him-

self had reported back to the Regimental War Room that Company "L", attached to his battalion, had but twenty men left. The companies had gone into the attack originally way understrength so their small numbers on the 31st of January were not due entirely to casualties sustained, which in reality were relatively small during the second phase of the "Colmar Pocket" attack. But during the fighting the Second Battalion had suffered most. In killed alone Company "E" had lost 20 men. Company "G" 20 and Company "F" 11. During the attack from 29 to 31 January 1945 relatively few casualties were evacuated.

Supporting artillery reported ammunition supplies were running dangerously low. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion reported its then present ammunition allowance as 60 rounds per gun per day and stated that it would have to be strictly adhered to.

The Third Battalion jumped off for its objective at 0930 with Company "K", under Captain Francis J. Kret, in the lead. "King" Company entered the patch of woods shortly thereafter and encountered strong small arms resistance. Company "I" joined in the fight and at 1115 the woods were cleaned of enemy and a number killed and sixteen taken prisoners. The enemy had not occupied the woods in such great force as previously reported or had withdrawn most of their forces.

In spite of the low ammunition supplies the artillery gave a ten minute fire preparation for the Second Battalion attack. Against strong resistance the road junction was taken at 1140 then the French armored Infantry force plunged ahead and into Horbourg. The few Second Battalion troops followed. A house to house battle ensued and in mid-afternoon the enemy started to pull out of Horbourg.

The west bridge over L'Il River to Colmar was blown by demolitions but the one on the south was seized intact by the French. It was prepared for demolitions in case the enemy should attempt a counter-attack. Colmar was sealed off from the east.



Sgt. Floyd L. Heskitt, Jr., on the left, and Pfc John Droney, both of Co. "E", were killed in action on 31 January 1945.

At that time the combat strength of the Second Battalion was so low that its efficiency as a fighting battalion was practically non-existent. Company "E" had only eighteen men left.

The enemy fired heavy mortar concentrations on Horbourg as our artillery placed "Time on Target" concentrations on the east section of Colmar. The First Battalion cleaned out Le Niederwald that day.

Commencing with the First Battalion at 2320, elements of the 289th and 290th Infantry Regiments of the 75th Infantry Division relieved the Seventh Infantry forces during the night of 31 January and 1 February 1945.

The Second Battalion and Company "L" assembled in Wihr-en-Plaine while the First and Third Battalions assembled in Bischwihr, Fortschwihr and Urschenheim. Phase II of the "Colmar Pocket" attack was over.

ACTION ON THE LEFT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY

Although delayed in crossing the Canal de Colmar because of the traffic jams which had prevented supporting engineers from bringing up bridging equipment on time, the 15th Infantry finally crossed on the left of the 7th Infantry crossing sites and made up for lost time. During the period 29-31 January the 15th Infantry captured the towns of Muntzenheim and Fortschwihr.

Elements of French Combat Command 5 passed through the 15th Infantry and cleared Urschenheim with little trouble but had a rough time clearing Durrenentzen, which was completely cleared of enemy on 1 February. Other French forces, advancing south between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, seized Marckolsheim and Artzenheim.

The 30th Infantry, in reserve, moved the night of 31 January, crossed over the Canal de Colmar and assembled in Urschenheim. Early on 1 February the "Friscan" Regiment moved southeast toward the Bois de Durrenentzen, Bois d'Urschenheim and Bois de Biesheim.

The 254th Infantry held and improved defensive positions east of Jebbsheim.

On 1 February 30th Infantry elements were counter-attacked by enemy Infantry and armor. The Third Division commander ordered that one Seventh Infantry battalion be moved to the patch of woods called Le Geisenlehnwald and held ready to move in any direction. The First Battalion was sent to the designated place. The enemy attack did not develop into a heavy engagement and the 30th Infantry was able to check the enemy without the help of the "Cotton Baler" First Battalion.

PHASE THREE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" ATTACK 2-5 FEBRUARY 1945

Major General O'Daniel did not give the Seventh Infantry much rest before committing it again. But he had the enemy on the run and was justified in attacking with the "Cotton Baler" Regiment once more, before the enemy could get set.

As French forces had captured Marckolsheim and were reported in Artzenheim, the Third Division commander ordered the Seventh Infantry to cross the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, pass through the French and attack to the south between the canal and the Rhine River to cut off Neuf-Brisach. For Phase Three of the attack the Seventh Infantry would alone open the attack but be supported by fire from the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments, which had alternated the accompanying assaulting role in the two previous phases. After the attack had progressed each of the other regiments was to then engage in the attack itself.

The first day of February was another busy day for the commanding officer of the Seventh Infantry and his staff. With enemy still holding the Bois de la Hardt, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges and his S-2, First Lieutenant John D. Foulk, led groups on reconnaissance. Lieutenant Colonel Thobro, Major Young, the liaison officers, and Major Richard A. Smith worked on movement instructions and coordinated various units of the command.

When the Commanding Officer returned from his reconnaissance he announced his findings and plans. He informed his staff that 1ere Division Infanterie Marocain

had seized Marckolsheim and Artzenheim and that the forward elements of the French were in the last named place. The bridge over the canal at Marckolsheim was intact but the bridge at Artzenheim was destroyed. He issued orders for the supporting armor and vehicles of the Regiment to move across the canal by the Marckolsheim bridge and for the foot troops to cross the canal by bridges to be constructed near Artzenheim. He then made a request to the Third Division commander that 254th Infantry elements be assigned the mission of protecting the engineer construction parties, who he hoped would complete the foot bridges by 0300 on 2 February when the Seventh Infantry battalions were scheduled to cross over the canal. He selected a line on the south edge of Artzenheim as the line of departure for the morning attack to be launched at 0500. The Second and Third Battalions were named to be in the attacking echelon with the First in reserve. The Regimental Battle Patrol and the Reconnaissance Company of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were ordered to protect the left flank of the Regiment during the operation.

In spite of the haste with which the operation was initiated, movements were conducted smoothly during the night of 1-2 February. The armor and vehicles moved north through Jelsheim, Grussenheim and Elsenheim, then turned east to Marckolsheim and from there moved south to Artzenheim. Company "A", 10th Engineers, built three foot bridges, each sixty feet in length, over the Canal du Rhone au Rhin in the vicinity of Artzenheim. No enemy opposition was received and the bridges were completed at 0100. The First Battalion troops marched from Urschenheim at 0130, crossed the Canal de Colmar at Ancienne Voie Romaine dite Heidenstraessel, and then moved northeast over the road to the bridges. The Second and Third Battalions trucked to Jelsheim and then moved the rest of the way by foot.

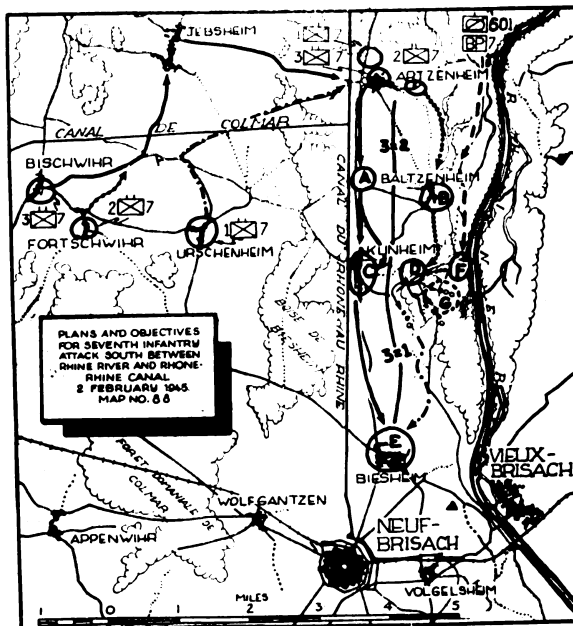
SEVENTH INFANTRY ATTACKS SOUTH BETWEEN RHONE-RHINE CANAL AND RHINE RIVER, 2 FEBRUARY 1945

Following preparations by six battalions of artillery the "7th Light Foot" Infantry jumped off in the attack at 0500 on 2 February 1945. The attacking battalions met very little resistance at first. At 0630 the White Battalion had seized Baltzenheim without a fight and captured the small number of five Germans. The Third Battalion followed the road close to the canal and had no trouble in entering the town of Kunheim, but soon fought enemy in a light engagement. The town was cleared by 0900. The Second Battalion became engaged with enemy east of Baltzenheim and took sixteen additional enemy prisoners. West of Kunheim the Canal du Rhone au Rhin is a double waterway for about 1000 yards. The easternmost canal comes up from the southeast, south of Kunheim. The bridge over that canal was found to be blown with a 50 foot gap in it. The advance was held up until engineers, protected by the Infantry, could make a passageway for the supporting armor.

The First Battalion was committed at 0800 and advanced through the woods east of Kunheim. The woods were combed and four ferries were discovered to be operating across the Rhine River east of Kunheim. Moving on south through the woods the First Battalion forces encountered about 100 enemy supported by two tanks. Companies "A" and "B" became heavily engaged with the Germans. Air missions were requested and conducted on Biesheim and the Cimetiere des Juifs.

Engineers completed a Bailey bridge and two foot-

bridges over the canal south of Kunheim during the night. The Second and Third Battalions crossed over and at 0230 following artillery preparations attacked to the south. The Third Battalion was on the right. In the attacking wave were Company "E", under First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin, Company "G", commanded by First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane, Company "K", commanded by Captain Francis J. Kret, and Company "I", under the leadership of First Lieutenant William D. Anthony. Companies "F" and "L", under



the command of Captain Earl F. Swanson and First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley, were the reserve rifle companies for their respective battalions. Sections of tanks and tank destroyers were with the assaulting companies while the flak wagons remained with the reserve companies.

Approaching Biesheim during the darkness the two-pronged attack immediately ran into trouble. Unlike Baltzenheim and Kunheim, Biesheim was to demand a hard fight. It was held by the enemy in great force.

Company "K" encountered strong enemy resistance and had the bulk of the company cut off by the Germans. After heavy casualties were sustained the company occupied trenches west of the main highway and were contained there by the enemy for eighteen hours. Heavy casualties were suffered by "King" Company. Privates First Class Peter Gross and Beanford L. Nanna, Privates Archie T. Kizirian and Paul R. Lockwood, Privates First Class Vernon W. McDonald, Frank J. Mylek, Robert D. Nance and Andrew A. Wildrick, Privates Robert T. Tauchen and Radis A. Vise were killed by the enemy.

Company "I" entered Biesheim at about 0345 and was followed by "Love" Company. Heavy machine gun and small arms fire was received and the two units became heavily engaged. The Second Battalion then entered Biesheim and contacted the Third Battalion elements as the fight still waged bitterly.

Two light tanks and the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol were sent to rescue the main forces of Company "K" trapped in the trenches, but failed when enemy tank fire destroyed the light tanks and drove off the Battle Patrol. Sergeant Robert Osganian, Technician Fifth Grade Elmer R. Musil and Private First Class

Donald A. Stone of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, were among the killed. Sergeant Clarence W. Denton, Technician Fifth Grade Lawrence Durant, Private Edward J. Wright and Private Robert W. Conn, of the same company, were seriously wounded.

In order to relieve the situation the First Battalion was alerted and moved to the vicinity of the Cimetiere des Juifs, northeast of Biesheim, and became engaged in a heavy fight with the enemy in the graveyard. All three battalions were then fighting desperately.

During the early daylight hours Company "L" with a tank and a tank destroyer attempted to move into the center of the town but encountered stubborn, determined resistance that halted the company. The tank and tank destroyer were destroyed by Panzerfaust fire.

Several attempts were made by Third Battalion forces to contact and rescue the trapped "King" Company forces in the trenches northwest of the town, but each time they failed due to accurate devastating fire over the flat terrain.



Three of the 27 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action on 3 February 1945 were: (1) Pvt. Adrian S. Fletcher, Co. "C"; (2) Pfc Everett J. Kimble, 1 Bn. Hq. Co., and (3) 1 Lt. Orville L. Dilley, commanding Co. "L".

The fight for Biesheim continued throughout 3 February against a powerful enemy determined to hold at all costs and who counter-attacked to regain the north section of the town. Positions fluctuated all day as the enemy succeeded in infiltrating back into the northern sector of the town and surrounded some Seventh Infantry elements. The situation was tense and extremely fluid.

A platoon of medium tanks led by Second Lieutenant Bert E. Gilden of the 756th Tank Battalion, with Company "L" doing the mopping up, succeeded in clearing one of the streets of enemy from house to house; ten enemy were killed, sixty-five taken prisoners and six 80mm mortars taken intact.

The enemy directed heavy mortar, artillery and flak-wagon fire into the northern section of the town, on the Company "K" forces that were cut off and the road leading north out of the town, which rendered the highway useless. Company "C", 99th Chemical Battalion, smoked Neuf-Brisach and adjacent areas in attempts to block the enemy's vision. An enemy "Tiger" Tank was cornered in Biesheim but then broke loose and caused much havoc.

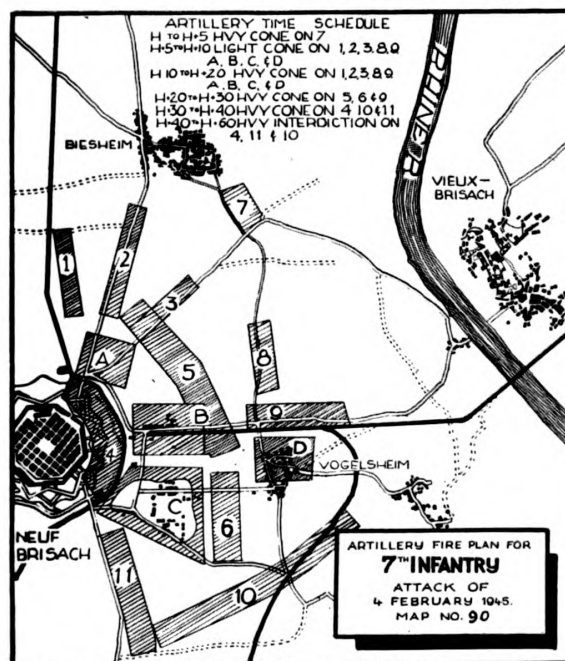
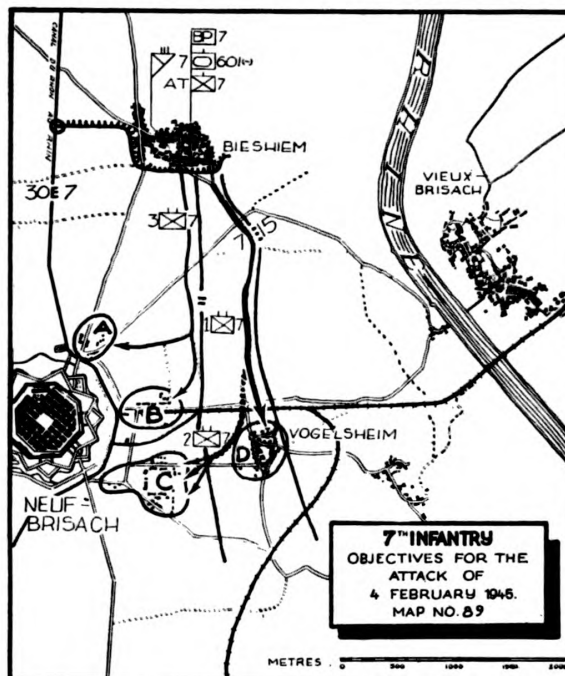
Company "L" continued its heroic efforts but suffered several casualties. First Lieutenant Orville L. Dilley, the commanding officer, Private First Class Raymond M. Davis, Jr., and Private Donald M. Mitchell of "Love" Company were killed during the action and many other members of the company wounded.

First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor, Third Battalion S-2, assumed command of Company "L" which was then badly battered and disorganized. He led it in a continuation of the assault and was nearly killed himself.

Closing-in in hand to hand combat, twelve of the enemy were killed by Company "L" and seventy-five were taken prisoners.

The Third Battalion was finally able to contact beleaguered "King" Company during the night and the wounded casualties were evacuated. Supply vehicles reached the battalions. The "Tiger" tank moved north during the night and did considerable firing before it escaped.

The fight for Biesheim and the Cimetiere des Juifs carried over to the 4th of February. The fighting in Biesheim was particularly bitter with the Second Battalion combatting enemy on three sides during the morn-



ing. Enemy resistance was broken by mid-day and large numbers of prisoners began to be captured. Nearly 500 were taken in the town. At 1400 the town was cleared.

Many were the gallant actions performed during the fighting for Biesheim and the Cimetiere des Juifs. A few of the responsible persons were later cited. Staff Sergeant Edgar Petrey of Company "K", who was killed in a subsequent action, had organized a defense with his ten-man platoon which held off an overwhelmingly superior enemy force for approximately twelve hours. Private First Class Ralph W. Moore, a runner of Company "M", was unusually gallant before he was killed by a German sniper. Major Jack M. Duncan, the commanding officer of the Second Battalion, Sergeant Alfred L. Lukenbill of Company "E", who was wounded during the action, Technical Sergeant George C. Pletzke of Company "C", Private First Class Woodrow J. Schoenfeld, a radio operator of Company "I", Private Ernest M. Amundsen of Company "D", and First Lieutenant Garlin M. Connor displayed gallantry.³³

While the Seventh Infantry had seized Baltzenheim and Kunheim and fought for Biesheim, other units of the Division did little hard fighting but rendered assistance and support to the Regiment. The 254th Infantry established "outposts along the Rhine River from Artzenheim south to protect the rear and flank of the Seventh Infantry." The 15th Infantry assembled in Kunheim on 3 February while the 30th Infantry remained in position west of the Canal du Rhone au Rhin in the Bois de Biesheim and sent patrols to the south.³⁴

On 4 February the 15th Infantry organized a task force and cleared the rear areas of enemy and captured twenty-five prisoners. Then the "Dragon" Second and Third Battalions passed through the 254th Infantry in the wooded area on the west bank of the Rhine River and cleared the Bois de Boulay. The 30th Infantry "continued to apply pressure on the enemy in Neuf-Brisach with small combat patrols throughout the period." The "Friscan" First Battalion "remained in support of the Seventh and 15th Infantries." The other two battalions moved to assembly areas in Baltzenheim and Kunheim.³⁵

The 75th Infantry Division operating on the right had seized the town of Appenwihr with its 291st Infantry Regiment making the main effort. An enemy counter-attack supported by eight to twelve "Tiger" tanks had forced it to withdraw from the town, however. Appenwihr was not retaken until the morning of 5 February. Later that day the 75th Infantry Division attacked for the towns of Hettenschlag and Wolfgantzen.

The Second Platoon of Battery "A", 353rd Searchlight Battalion, became attached to the Third Infantry Division during the afternoon of 4 February and went into position on the west side of the Widensolen Canal. That night the platoon illuminated the battlefield with reflected light for the attack made by the Seventh Infantry.

7th INFANTRY MAKES NIGHT ATTACK— CAPTURES VOGELSHEIM AND SEALS OFF NEUF-BRISACH. 5 FEBRUARY 1945

Under the eerie "artificial moonlight" of the searchlights, which focused on the low-hanging cloud banks above the positions of the enemy, the Seventh Infantry attacked south from Biesheim at fifteen minutes past midnight 4-5 February and was supported by an artillery fire program. The three rifle battalions attacked abreast.

Commencing at H-Hour the artillery laid a heavy concentration of five minutes duration on the road south-

east to the Mont Beaupuy crossroads. Then followed light concentrations for five minutes, which were dropped on the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, the roads leading to Neuf-Brisach from the north and northeast, the road into Vogelsheim, the road junction numbered 195.2 northeast of the Porte de Strasbourg in Neuf-Brisach, the electric plant, tobacco factory, Caserne Abatucci and Vogelsheim. The same points then received a heavier concentration of ten minutes duration. The artillery continued to pour heavy concentrations and interdictions on the objectives until H+60 then fired on call.

The night attack did not encounter powerful enemy resistance as the enemy was withdrawing as rapidly as possible and the days of the "Colmar Pocket" were numbered.

The First Battalion on the left moved rapidly and entered Vogelsheim at 0210. Companies "A" and "C" were in the attacking echelon with "B" following, to clean up by-passed enemy.

First Lieutenant Victor M. Morris, commanding Company "A", displayed great leadership during the attack on Vogelsheim. He urged his men forward through two impact areas of artillery and tank fire. Although wounded four times by shell fragments, he rushed from man to man while shells exploded close by. He then led his decimated company on tanks and then ordered the reluctant tank force to renew its advance.



Three members of the Regiment who were killed in action on 4 February 1945 were: (1) Pvt. Clarence W. Paige, Co. "B"; (2) Pfc Charles R. Walker, Co. "B", and (3) 2 Lt. Ralph C. Street, Co. "H".

Under artillery and sniper fire, he led his assault platoons in storming the town, killing eight and capturing ten of the enemy. In recognition of his heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Private First Class Frank A. Corbin Jr., of Company "A", who was killed in the action, and Staff Sergeant Robert E. Zierolf of Company "D", distinguished themselves during the fighting for Vogelsheim.³⁶

By 0710 most of the town was in hand and by noontime the Red Battalion troops were in complete control of Vogelsheim, but received heavy enemy artillery fire from east of the Rhine River.

³³ GOs No. 43, 70, 168, 299, 306, 313 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 26 Feb., 20 May, 15, 20 & 27 Aug., 5 Sept. '45. 1 Lt. Connor was awarded the 3d Oak Leaf Cluster & T/Sgt. Pletzke the 1st to the Silver Star Medal. Sgt. Petrey (posthumously), Maj. Duncan, Sgt. Lukenbill, Pfc's Moore & Schoenfeld & Pvt. Amundsen were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ G-3 Report No. 34, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Riedwihr, France, 3 Feb. '45.

³⁵ G-3 Reports Nos. 5 & 6, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Riedwihr, France, 4-5 Feb. '45.

³⁶ GOs No. 326 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Pfc Corbin (posthumously) & S/Sgt. Zierolf were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion (reinforced), on the right, encountered enemy south of Biesheim but pushed through for the tobacco factory. Company "L", commanded by Second Lieutenant Earle R. Stall, Jr., turned west for Objective "A", the road junction numbered 195.2 near the Canal due Rhone au Rhin, on the northeast edge of Neuf-Brisach.

Staff Sergeant Bonnie J. Chambliss of Company "L" led a five-man reconnaissance patrol in advance of the main forces of the company. The patrol quietly overpowered two German guards outside a building. Tossing hand grenades and spraying the rooms of the building

was then the scene of bitter fighting between the Seventh Infantry and the enemy. The 15th Infantry then assisted in the clearing of the Cimitiere des Juifs and passed through the 254th Infantry outposts to clear the Bois de Boulay, Strohstadt Ferme and Fort Mortier and advance to the bridges over the Rhine. Both the highway and railroad bridges were found blown.

From 2 to 6 February the 30th Infantry blocked west of the Canal du Rhone au Rhin, conducted aggressive combat patrols and supported the attack of the Seventh Infantry. Though the 30th Infantry did not engage in heavy fighting during the last attack phase of the opera-

Four of the 18 members of the Regiment who sacrificed their lives on 5-6 February 1945 were: (1) Pfc Frank A. Corbin, Jr., Co. "A"; (2) S/Sgt. Robert C. Mier, 1 Bn. Hq. Co.; (3) Pvt. George M. Peters, Co. "C"; and (4) Pfc Arthur H. Gottschalk, Co. "H".



with "Tommy Gun" fire the members of the patrol forced 26 Germans to surrender. Three 75mm guns were also seized outside the building. Shortly thereafter Company "L" advanced, captured 31 more Germans and established the roadblock as directed.³⁷

The remainder of the Third Battalion fought its way south against moderate resistance and reached Objective "B", the Manufacture de Tabac, the railroad station, and electrical plant east of Neuf-Brisach. Little trouble was encountered and by noontime Third Battalion forces had cleared out the area and taken 72 prisoners of war.

The Second Battalion followed to the right rear of the First Battalion, after the jump-off. Passing Objective "B" some enemy tank fire was received but the battalion pushed on. At 0415 Companies "E" and "G" turned west for Objective "C", the Caserne Abatucci, where a small arms fight was waged before the area became cleared at noontime.

Neuf-Brisach, was sealed off from the east and roads to the Rhine and Vieux-Brisach were cut. Enemy pulled out of Neuf-Brisach to the south. The railroad bridge over the Canal du Rhone au Rhin near the electrical plant was seized by Blue Battalion forces during the night of 5-6 February. They found it prepared for demolition. An anti-demolition squad of Company "A", 10th Engineers, removed the charges.

Second Battalion forces established a road block at Road Junction 197 and completed the work of sealing off Neuf-Brisach from the north, east and south.

ACTION BY OTHER THIRD DIVISION UNITS DURING THE THIRD ATTACK PHASE OF THE "COLMAR POCKET" OPERATIONS

On the day that the Seventh Infantry opened the Third Division attack between the Canal du Rhone au Rhin and the Rhine River the other units of the division remained in position west of the canal, improved their defensive locations or prepared to support the attack. The 254th Infantry however assembled and prepared to follow the Seventh Infantry to protect the rear and left flank of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. On the third day of February the 254th Infantry established outposts along the Rhine River and then maintained them until the 8th when relieved.

On 3 February the 15th Infantry assembled in Kunheim and at 0050A on the 4th committed its First Battalion to clear out an area north of Biesheim which

tions some of its troops were the ones destined to enter and occupy Neuf-Brisach.

Much has been written about the "Battle" and the "Capture" of Neuf-Brisach.³⁸ Actually a battle was never fought for the place itself in World War II nor was the town captured. The "Battle of Neuf-Brisach" like the "Battle of Colmar" was fought and won in outlying places by the Allies. Patrols from the 30th Infantry were guided into the town by civilians and did not fire a shot. Seventy-eight enemy were found in the former fortress town and surrendered. The town had been badly battered by the air and artillery arms. The action of the Seventh Infantry and other forces in cutting off the town had compelled the enemy to withdraw. The following quotation is taken from an official Third Division report which gives the best account of the occupation of the town:

At 0800A (6 Feb.) a four-man patrol from Company C (30th Inf.) visited the northwest wall of town and was fired upon by enemy machine guns. The patrol leader returned to his company and guided it to the moat near the entrance. Here there were two bridges. The one furthest to the west was blown, but the moat was dry. The inner one was intact.

At about 0930A, a platoon from Company B moved south along the Rhine-Rhone canal. As the platoon neared the railroad bridge, soldiers observed a civilian who, after some persuasion, jumped down into the dry moat and led the platoon to a narrow, low-ceilinged 60-foot tunnel which led through the wall into the town.

In one building in the north part of town 38 prisoners were taken. The others were brought in groups of three or four, until a total of 76 had been accounted for. By 1115A it was radioed that the town was clear of enemy. The Company B platoon entered shortly after and took two more prisoners.

The remainder of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry, was then ordered to occupy the town and to set up a perimeter defense in bunkers which lined the top of the town wall.³⁹

³⁷ GO No. 175, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 May '45. S/Sgt. Chambliss was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁸ Error even crept into the report of the Army Chief of Staff. In reference to the "Colmar Pocket" operations in a biennial report, General of the Army George C. Marshall stated: "The climax of the battle was a night assault on the bridgehead town of Neuf-Brisach by infantry of the U. S. 3d Division using assault boats and scaling ladders on the moats and walls of the fortified town, very much after the fashion of medieval battles". (Marshall, "The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific", Simon & Schuster, p. 45). There was no "night assault" on Neuf-Brisach or a battle "very much after the fashion of a medieval battles" and assault boats were not used in crossing the moat. The moat was dry, a fact to which the writer can testify because he walked through the moat on 6 Feb. '45.

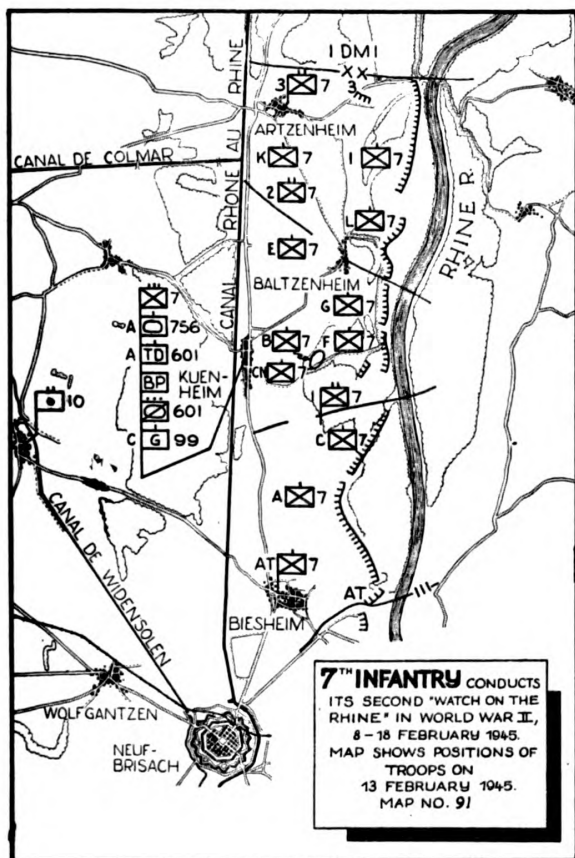
³⁹ Annex "A", Report of Operations for the Period 1-28 Feb '45, Hq, 3d Inf. Div., 23 Mar. '45.

The Seventh Infantry remained located around Neuf-Brisach until the 8th of February and engaged in mopping-up operations. French forces advanced from the south and established contact with American and French forces which had operated from the north. The "Colmar Pocket" was wiped out.

On the morning of 8 February Seventh Infantry elements moved by vehicle from Vogelsheim, the Manufacture de Tabac and Caserne Abatucci to Biesheim, Kunheim, Baltzenheim and Artzenheim. Preparations were made for relief of the 254th Infantry in its zone and to assume defensive positions along the west bank of the Rhine River for the second time in World War II.

7th INFANTRY CONDUCTS ITS SECOND "WATCH ON THE RHINE" IN WORLD WAR II. 8-18 FEBRUARY 1945

Relief of the 254th Infantry along the west bank of the Rhine River from the vicinity of Artzenheim on the north to a position opposite Biesheim was effected during the afternoon of 8 February. The 1st Division Blindes bordered the Regiment on the north. The 30th Infantry assumed positions on the south. All three battalions of the Regiment and the Mine Platoon of Anti-Tank Company occupied positions. From 8 to 18 February 1945 the Seventh Infantry conducted its second "Watch on the Rhine" during World War II with little activity.



Contact patrols operated between the units with numerous outposts and listening posts being manned. A minimum of artillery and mortar fire was fired across the Rhine into Germany for two reasons. The build-up

of a reserve of ammunition was desired and it was not thought necessary to place heavy shoots on the east bank of the river, for the enemy could retaliate with heavy artillery into "Cotton Baler" positions. The fire policy enforced was one of firing on targets of observation and opportunity.



General Charles De Gaulle, head of the provisional French government, took part in the honorary services at Colmar for the American and French forces which had cooperated to eliminate the enemy pocket.

The number of listening posts maintained by the Regiment along the Rhine River was thirty, nine each by the First and Third Battalions and twelve by the Second Battalion. One night floating logs and debris were mistaken for enemy rafts and boats on the Rhine River and fired on by Seventh Infantrymen with rifles, machine guns and mortars. Trip flares were laid in front of positions and smoke was laid to screen positions during daylight hours.

The night of 13-14 February a nine-man enemy patrol entered the Regiment's lines from the 30th Infantry sector on the south and shot up a Company "B" outpost before returning. Anti-Tank Company relieved its Mine Platoon with a gun platoon on the right flank on the 15th. The enemy subjected the Regimental Command Post in Kunheim to a heavy shelling from self-propelled artillery across the Rhine and set fire to a pile of ammunition.

When light flashed during the night of 14-15 February in the vicinity of a pill box in the Siegfried line on the east of the Rhine River, Cannon Company fired a mission on the position. The same night four Russians succeeded in escaping from the Germans, crossed the Rhine by boat and entered Seventh Infantry lines. They were taken prisoners by Third Battalion forces and interrogated. Four more of their comrades performed the same stunt the night of 17-18 February.

One day Outpost No. 1 spotted an enemy on a tower east of the Rhine and another in a tree nearby; 500 rounds of machine gun ammunition were fired at the two enemy who were hit and seen to fall from their lookout perches.

French forces of the 4eme Regiment Tirailleurs Marocain commenced relief of the Seventh United States Infantry during the morning of 18 February 1945. All Third Battalion forces except those at two outposts of Company "L", who could not be relieved in daylight

hours, were relieved, as was Company "G" of the Second Battalion during the morning. The night of 18-19 February 1945 saw the complete relief of the Regiment being effected by the French. Other units of the Third Infantry Division were relieved and the period of operation under the French command was at an end.

During the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign the Seventh Infantry displayed some of its finest offensive fighting of World War II. The new commanding officer who had compiled a brilliant record as a battalion commander demonstrated that he was equally brilliant in the role of a regimental commander. Under his leadership the Regiment struck savagely and mercilessly at the foe in lightning thrusts that knocked the enemy off balance and left him unprepared for follow up blows. Through his command of the German language, Lieutenant Colonel Heintges, on numerous occasions, personally secured vital information by interrogating prisoners of war immediately after they were captured by the front line "Cotton Balers". Valuable time was saved and information important at the moment was thus obtained.

The rifle battalions all gave excellent accounts of themselves, were ably led and reflected great credit on the commanders and their men. The deeds of gallantry and heroism, many already recounted, testify to the superb manner in which the troops fought. Following the hectic First Round in which the enemy lost Ostheim, the Chateau de Schoppenwihr, Rosenkranz, Station de Bennwihr, and Houssen to the hard hitting "Cotton Balers" but in powerful counter-blows drove back and crippled the 30th Infantry, the Seventh Regiment assaulted across the Canal de Colmar to deal the enemy another devastating blow in Round Two.

Inability of the 15th Infantry to attack on time because of poor logistics and improper liaison with the French by higher headquarters, did not deter the Seventh Infantry from carrying out its mission and attacking at the prescribed time. Bischwihr, Wihr-en-Plaine and Horbourg were wrenched from the enemy's grasp.

For Round Three, in which the enemy was knocked out, the Seventh Infantry alone opened the Third Division attack between the Rhine River and the Rhone-Rhine Canal. Baltzenheim, Kunheim, Biesheim and Volgelsheim were captured and the enemy was forced to flee from Neuf-Brisach.

Like at the close of every other campaign, the roll call revealed that many "Cotton Balers" were absent. For the two-month "Colmar Pocket" Campaign under French supreme command the Seventh Infantry lost 185 enlisted men and 12 officers killed and died of wounds received in the action. One other died of injuries received, 38 were missing from the action, 648 wounded, 53 injured and 23 were taken prisoners of war by the enemy. Nearly all the casualties were suffered during the period 22 January-6 February while the offensive was on.

REGIMENTAL COMMANDER COMMENDS HIS TROOPS

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH INFANTRY
OFFICE OF THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER
A P O NO. 3

13 February 1945.

MEMORANDUM:

TO: All Officers and Non-commissioned Officers, 7th Infantry.

1. The efficiency of an Infantry Regiment is judged during combat by its actions and the victories it wins on the field of battle. Officers and men of the 7th Infantry, you have added new pages of glory and honor to the Regiment's history during the recent campaign when the Regiment was never in reserve

but spearheaded every drive the 3rd Division made in its prominent role of eliminating the COLMAR POCKET. Your fighting was superb. You defeated the enemy in every round, surmounted every obstacle, seized and captured every objective assigned to you by the Commanding General, a record only you can boast of in the campaign just ended. The enemy has learned to fear you and respect you. You have the admiration of your companions in arms. Your Commanding Officer salutes your fighting qualities and is proud to command you.

2. When not in combat an Infantry Regiment is judged by the appearance it makes and the courtesy it shows to all people within and from without the command. It is the aim of this command to secure the same high rating when not in combat as when actually fighting the enemy. All officers and non-commissioned officers will, by the power of example and, if necessary, by disciplinary measures, inculcate into the minds of the men the ideals of right manners, good conduct, cleanliness and uniform appearance. Special attention will be given the subject military courtesy and discipline, and corrective action taken immediately whenever deficiencies are manifested.

3. This memorandum will be read to all members of this Regiment at earliest opportunity.

JOHN A. HEINTGES,

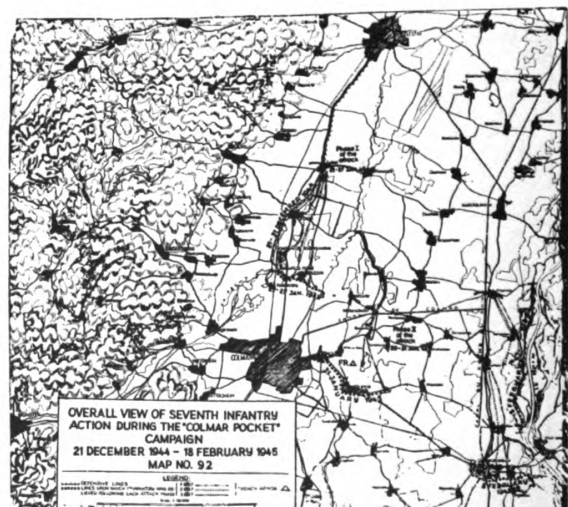
Lt. Col., 7th Infantry

Commanding.

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION IS CITED BY THE FRENCH AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

When the American Third Infantry Division was relieved by the French on 19 February 1945, its longest stretch of combat in World War II, which commenced with the Invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944, was ended. In the actions of the American Seventh Army and the French First Army a principal role was played by the American Third Infantry Division which the Germans had long before, in Italy, called the American "Sturm" Division and the French called the American "Elite" Division.

At a colorful ceremony in Colmar the head of the French government, General Charles De Gaulle, paid high tribute to the "Rock of the Marne" Division for its outstanding work in the liberation of France and awarded to it the coveted French Fourragere. All members who served with the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry and other units of the Third Infantry Division during the period were authorized to wear the French Fourragere.⁴⁰



⁴⁰ Decision 976, Prov. French Gov't, 27 July '45.

The official French citation was read by General d'Armee Jean Joseph Gabriel de Lattre de Tassigny, Commanding General of the First French Army, then he pinned the coveted cord of honor to the division colors. Thus the Third Infantry Division became the first American division to be cited by the French Government and awarded the French Fourragere for service in World War II. Major General John W. O'Daniel was made an honorary private first class in the French Foreign Legion.



Members of the Medical Detachment are shown outside the Second Battalion Aid Station which was established in Baltzenheim, Alsace, during February, 1945. Front row, l. to r., Pfc James Etheridge, T/5 Don Hamrick, Pfc James Cameron, Pfc Emil Ladner, T/5 Buford Olson, and Pfc Lewis Hardy. Middle: Pfc Harold Flax. Back Row: 2 Lt. R. L. Tillman, Pfc Charles O'Connor, T/4 Matthew Gasper, T/4 Joseph Harvey, T/4 Theodore Siegal, T/5 James Beck, S/Sgt. Bernard Rampola, and T/5 Theodore Thompson.

OFFICIAL FRENCH CITATION

To the Elite Division which remained faithful to the finest traditions of courage and sacrifice which had been its pride during the last war when it acquired the name of "Rock of the Marne":

Under the vigorous leadership of General O'Daniel, a chief known for his energy and his ability to maneuver, the division, remaining in line without interruption, fought victoriously from the beaches of the Mediterranean to the banks of the Rhine.

Attached to First French Army under command of General de Lattre de Tassigny for the operation of the Colmar Pocket, the Third Division has by the power of its ever renewed attacks taken a large part in the victorious battle of Colmar. During the night of 22-23 January 1945 this division succeeded in crossing by surprise the Fecht and Ill rivers and captured the first enemy line of resistance moving across a terrain covered with obstacles and in spite of a raging snow blizzard.

Giving the enemy no rest and pursuing him with an ever increasing ardor, the division crossed the Colmar canal to successfully surround and capture the town of Neuf-Brisach, thereby cutting one of the only two possible lines of retreat of the enemy still fighting in the region south of Colmar.

The division during this action captured over four thousand PWs, thus brilliantly completing the series of glorious operations in which it participated from the Mediterranean to the Rhine.

P. C. February 20, 1945.—Signed:

GENERAL DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY,
Commander in Chief—First French Army.

Besides by the French, the Third Infantry Division was cited by high American military leaders and eventually by the President of the United States. The citations are here reprinted.

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL SIXTH ARMY GROUP

To the Commanding General, Officers and Men of the Third Infantry Division:

On January 23rd your Division launched an attack on the enemy with the ultimate objective of reducing the Colmar Pocket. With the 254th Infantry of the 63rd Division attached, by a night operation you forced a crossing of the Ill River and established a bridgehead south of Illhausern. You held this bridgehead in spite of heavy armored counter-attacks from the rear and flanks. Later, you succeeded in capturing Riedwihr and then drove south, crossed the Colmar canal and by swift maneuvers secured two bridge sites and captured six towns in eight hours. You built bridges with great rapidity and, driving with your armor, you outflanked Colmar and cut off the retreat of the enemy by way of Neuf-Brisach in the northern sector of the pocket. Your successes enabled the II French Corps to push eastward to the Rhine and forced the enemy south to his only route of escape. Throughout this hard fighting, opposed by a fanatical Hun and terrible weather, you killed many of the enemy, captured large numbers of prisoners and seized large quantities of materiel.

This commendable operation was carried out in the best tradition of the Third Infantry Division and has added another glorious chapter to your outstanding record which includes almost four hundred combat days and nineteen Medals of Honor. I congratulate each officer and man on this fine organization of which you should all be justly proud.

JACOB L. DEVERS
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

To this commendation is added the congratulations, respect and admiration of the Seventh Army.

A. M. PATCH
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

My congratulations. Again, well done. Third Division.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

Members of the Third Infantry Division:

You have just completed an outstanding operation against the enemy for which your actions have been justly recognized in the form of citation by the French Government as well as your own. We have a reputation as being an efficient fighting division.

Now that we are out of the line for a while, we must not lose sight of this reputation earned. It must be maintained throughout our every action. Therefore, see to it that you are known as belonging to the Third Division by the way you salute, by the way you conduct yourself while on pass, and by the way you do the innumerable things that go with being a soldier. In other words, fight like hell, play like hell when it's your turn, and work like hell to be ready to fight like hell when again called upon. Such is the Third Division.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL
Major General, U. S. Army
Commanding

PRESIDENTIAL CITATION
GENERAL ORDERS WAR DEPARTMENT
NO. 44 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
SECTION XIII 6 June 1945

2. As authorized by Executive Order 9396 (Sec. 1, WD Bul. 22, 1943), superseding Executive Order 9075 (Sec. III, WD Bul. 11, 1942) the following unit is cited by the War Department for outstanding performance of duty in action during the period indicated, under the provisions of Section IV, WD Circular 333, 1943, in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction. The citation reads as follows:

The Third Infantry Division with the following attached units:

254th Infantry Regiment,
99th Chemical Battalion,
168th Chemical Smoke Generator Company,
441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion,
601st Tank Destroyer Battalion (SP),
756th Tank Battalion,
IPW Team 183.

Fighting incessantly, from 22 January to 6 February 1945, in heavy snow storms, through enemy-infested marshes and woods, and over a flat plain criss-crossed by numerous small canals, irrigation ditches, and unfordable streams, terrain ideally suited to the defense, breached the German defense wall on the northern perimeter of the Colmar bridgehead and drove forward to isolate Colmar from the Rhine. Crossing the Fecht River from Guemar, Alsace, by stealth during the late hours of darkness of 22 January, the assault elements fought their way forward against mounting resistance. Reaching the Ill River, a bridge was thrown across but collapsed before armor could pass to the support of two battalions of the 30th Infantry on the far side. Isolated and attacked by a full German Panzer Brigade, outnumbered and outgunned, these valiant troops were forced back yard by yard. Wave after wave of armor and Infantry was hurled against them but despite hopeless odds the Regiment held tenaciously to its bridgehead. Driving forward in knee-deep snow which masked acres of densely sown

mines, the 3d Infantry Division fought from house to house and street to street in the fortress towns of the Alsatian plain. Under furious concentrations of supporting fire, assault troops crossed the Colmar Canal in rubber boats during the night of 29 January. Driving relentlessly forward six towns were captured within eight hours, 500 casualties inflicted on the enemy during the day, and large quantities of booty seized. Slashing through to the Rhone-Rhine Canal the garrison at Colmar was cut off and the fall of the city assured. Shifting the direction of the attack, the division moved south between the Rhone-Rhine Canal and the Rhine toward Neuf-Brisach and the Brisach Bridge. Synchronizing the attack, the bridge was seized and Neuf-Brisach captured by crossing the protecting moat and scaling the medieval walls by ladder. In one of the hardest fought and bloodiest campaigns of the war, the 3d Infantry Division annihilated three enemy divisions, partially destroyed three others, captured over 4,000 prisoners, and inflicted more than 7,500 casualties on the enemy.

By order of the Secretary of War:

G. C. MARSHALL,
Chief of Staff.

Official:
J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General



The 28 "Cotton Balers" shown above who won the Silver Star Medal are: (1) Pfc. Frederick Bassett, Co. "C", (2) Pfc. Michael S. Balogh, Co. "H", (3) Pfc. Calvin T. Bradshaw, Co. "C", (4) Pfc. Paul D. Clever, Co. "M", (5) Pfc. Lewis W. Gullett, Co. "E", (6) Pfc. Stephen J. Nemeth, Co. "H", (7) Pfc. James W. Schultz, Co. "A", (8) Cpl. Troy B. Hollon, Cn. Co., (9) Sgt. Paul E. Helms, Co. "D", (10) S/Sgt. Micheal C. Fanelli, Co. "F", (11) S/Sgt. Mays G. Overton, Co. "I", (12) S/Sgt. George K. Pletzke, Co. "C", (13) Capt. Charles L. Treadway, Co. "M", (14) Capt. Robert V. Horton, Cn. Co., (15) Pfc. Christian A. Funk, Co. "H", (16) Cpl. Donald E. Scott, Co. "B", (17) S/Sgt. Conrad L. Lacombe, Regtl. B.P., (18) 1 Sgt. Robert M. O'Kane, Co. "B", (19) 2 Lt. Donald F. Stegman, 3d Bn. Hq. Co., (20) 1 Lt. Herbert E. Bothee, Co. "K", (21) 1 Lt. Sam S. Fitzsimmons, Co. "I", (22) 1 Lt. George R. Townsend, Co. "K", (23) Capt. Eugene F. Bacon, Co. "H", (24) Capt. Edward J. Brink, Co. "I", (25) Capt. Francis J. Kret, Cos. "I" & "K", (26) Capt. Frederick O. Rachiele, M. C., (27) Capt. Frank J. Syladek, M. C., (28) Capt. George W. Yarnall, M. C.

PART SEVEN

The German Campaign—15 March-8 May 1945

CHAPTER I

Preparation and Plans

Early 19 February 1945 the Seventh Infantry commenced movement by motor from the Rhine and to rest areas north of Nancy, France. The route followed was through Colmar, St. Die, Luneville and Nancy. The units closed in to their assigned areas during the night.

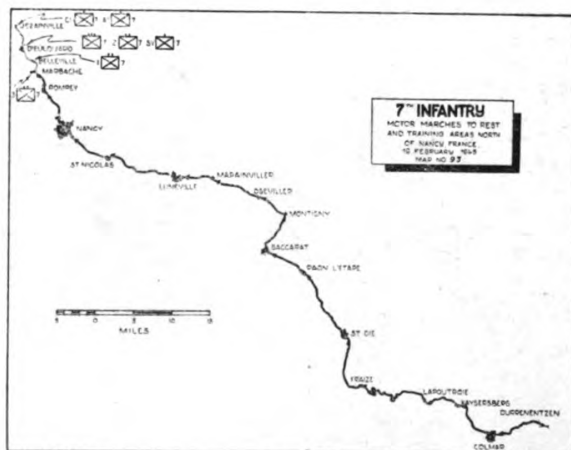
The Red Battalion closed into Belleville, the White Battalion into Dieulouard, the Blue Battalion into Marbach, Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies into Jezainville. Service Company set up in Dieulouard where the Regimental Command Post was also established. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, was established in Pont-A-Mousson. Attachments were released from Seventh Infantry control.

The Regiment rested and rehabilitated its troops the first few days in the new area. "Cotton Balers" received a hearty welcome by the populace in the towns of the province of Lorraine, where they were billeted in the homes of the people and public buildings. Moving pictures and shows were provided for the men and each company held dances which were attended by the old and young "belles" of Lorraine, who quickly learned the American "jitterbug" steps and enjoyed the dances. Passes were given to the men to visit the historic city of Nancy. Sundays were devoted to religious services.

Commencing 26 February a limited training program was conducted which included inspections, disciplinary training and conditioning marches. The personal appearance of the men, care and cleaning of equipment took up part of the time. The Articles of War were re-read and lectures given on morality and sex. A "team spirit" was renewed within the squads, platoons and companies with the non-commissioned and commissioned officers learning the names of all the new men, being intent on becoming better acquainted.

On 2 March a more intensive program of training was initiated with eight hours per day devoted to weapons training and small unit problems in the attack and defense. One-third of the training was conducted during the hours of darkness. Emphasis was placed on "village and street fighting" which took place in Pournoy la Chetive, where a "typical" German village was set up. Demonstrations of street fighting by selected personnel preceded the use of the village by small unit formations of the battalions. Full use was made of demolitions, grenades, rocket launchers, flame throwers and other Infantry weapons. Tank destroyers were used in the exercises. Every measure was taken to make the problems as realistic as possible for the new members of the Regiment. During the night training "artificial

moonlight" was used. Anti-Tank Company was organized into tank destroyer sections and training was begun with the rocket launcher, better known as the "bazooka", as the primary weapon of the company rather than the anti-tank gun, though the gun was not neglected. Firing was conducted. Cannon Company fired its weapons on the artillery ranges. Numerous schools were held for the officers and non-commissioned officers which included classes for forward observers in the direction of artillery and mortar fire.



On 7 March an impressive ceremony was held on the historic plain of Lorraine, two miles west of Dieulouard, when the gallant Seventh Infantry was highly commended by Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, Commanding General of the American Seventh Army, Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division, and his assistant, Brigadier General Robert T. Young, for the prominent part it played in reducing the "Colmar Pocket" and in previous operations.

On a grey, cool, early afternoon, after preparing and practicing all morning, the splendid troops of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment were arrayed in battalion formations to the admiration of a large civilian gallery. The Regimental Colors with their numerous campaign streamers flapped in the breeze as one of the oldest and most decorated regiments in the United States Army stood at attention.

General Patch presented the nation's highest valor award to Sergeant James P. Connor of the Battle Patrol for the actions he performed at Cavallaire-sur-Mer, in Southern France, 15 August 1944. Company "E" received its well-deserved Presidential Unit Citation and the Regiment was officially awarded its "Combat Infantry Regiment" streamer, which was welcome, but unnecessary, as every combat soldier knows that the Seventh Infantry has always been and will always be a "Combat Infantry" Regiment. Numerous Purple Heart Medals, Silver Star Medals, Bronze Star Medals and Soldier's Medals were also awarded to Seventh Infantry personnel. The ceremony ended with the magnificent "7th Light Foot" Infantry, with her colors, streamers and banners flying, and her inimitable "dogfaces", passing in review before the commanding generals. It was a sight that would thrill the heart and bring tears to the eyes of those who know what the Seventh Infantry has been through, has meant and will always be to the United States of America. It is the Regiment that is always "willing and able" and has never failed in its assigned mission.

During the stay north of Nancy the Commanding Officer, John Arnold Heintges, became a full colonel of the United States Army. It was a promotion justly given and there was not a man in the entire Regiment who did not feel happy for the "old man," as he had proven his ability and many felt he should have had the promotion long before.

One change occurred on the Regimental Field and Staff during the Nancy interlude, when Lieutenant Colo-

nel Clayton C. Thobro departed for the United States on temporary duty. Not professionally trained to be a soldier, the man from Wyoming had shown great promise during his first days in the Army. He had landed with the Regiment at Fedala, French Morocco, that dark morning of 8 November 1942 as a second lieutenant. During the ensuing campaigns he had displayed unusual talents, coolness and bravery while under fire on the field of battle. A man of few words but bold and resolute of action he had become one of the Seventh Infantry's outstanding field commanders and had proven himself fully capable of handling a rifle battalion under the most trying conditions. He never asked an officer or enlisted man to perform a mission that he would not have done himself. He was greatly loved by the officers and men who served under him for he shared their every hardship. Many are the stories that are told by the firesides of his great scorn for personal danger or welfare. One of the most dangerous assignments for a soldier in his battalion was to become his orderly, jeep driver or body guard. In the thick of battle he was always up front and once during the bitter fighting of the Vosges Mountains every member of his staff had been killed or wounded and he stood alone. When he himself was wounded and Colonel Harrell sent an officer to relieve him, he stubbornly refused to relinquish command. A man of high ideals he was never known to curse or blaspheme as he held great control over himself in the most trying of circumstances. Holder of the Distinguished Service Cross, Legion of Merit Award, Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal he was one of the Seventh Infantry's most decorated members.

Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd B. Ramsey moved up to assume the Regimental Executive Officer's position while the South Carolinian, Major Ralph T. Flynn, assumed command of the Third Battalion. Jack M. Duncan received promotion to the grade of lieutenant colonel.

On 9 March a new phase of instruction was initiated with the technique of river crossings as the subject. The battalions organized boat teams and waves. The next day actual river crossings by boat teams were conducted over the Moselle River in the vicinity of Belleville. On 11 March the Regimental Combat Team, less Service Company and the administrative elements, moved by motor to the vicinity of Lake Parroy where first the Regiment was to conduct a crossing problem of its own then take part in an exercise by the entire Third Infantry Division.

During the amphibious training that was conducted on 12 March one of the boats capsized. Private First Class Donald F. Dunham and Private Michael M. Gerhart, Jr., both of Company "A", were drowned in Lake Parroy.

The training was cut short on the 12th by order of higher headquarters. The tactical situation on the 7th Army front was such that the Commanding General ordered the Third Infantry Division to be committed without delay.

Before crossing the Rhine River the Seventh Infantry was to crack the Siegfried Line. The troops of the Regiment were trucked back to the billeting areas north of Nancy. At 2130 on 12 March Colonel Heintges received orders from higher authority regarding the new offensive action. The Regimental Staff then worked night and day in making plans and reconnaissance for the new operation.

The American 7th Army under its great leader, planned to resume the offensive on D-Day, which was set for 15 March 1945. Objectives of the 7th Army were to destroy the enemy in its zone; penetrate the Siegfried



Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, commanding U. S. 7th Army, congratulates Sgt. James P. Connor and awards him the Congressional Medal of Honor. Maj. Gen. O'Daniel looks on.

Line, seize the west bank of the Rhine River and cross the great river between Mannheim and Mainz to establish a bridgehead in preparation for a subsequent advance to the northeast. The three corps of the 7th Army, the VI, XV and XXI Corps, were all to attack at D-Day, H-Hour, but the XV Corps employing the veteran 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions and the 100th Infantry Division in the assault, was to make the main effort in the center on the axis of Rimling-Zwiebrücken:

Lt. Col. Clayton C. Thobro was one of the Seventh Infantry's ablest and best liked commanders of World War II. He temporarily commanded the Regiment from 4 to 5 December 1944. He commanded the Third Battalion from 4 to 13 March 1944, and commanded the Second Battalion from 16 July to 4 December 1944. He served as Regimental Executive Officer from 5 December 1944 to 26 February 1945. After spending a leave in the United States he returned to the Regiment after hostilities had ceased in Europe and again assumed command of the Third Battalion on 10 May 1945.



to penetrate the Siegfried Line in its zone; capture Zweibrücken, Hombourg and Kaiserslautern, and continue the attack to seize the west bank of the Rhine in its zone. On Army order the XV Corps was to cross the Rhine River north of Mannheim and secure a bridgehead for further operations to the northeast. Also on Army order the XV Corps was to pass one Infantry division to the VI Corps in the vicinity of Pirmasens.

The VI Corps attacking on the 7th Army's right was assigned the mission of seizing and securing the Bitche-Hagenau road and Maginot Line positions in its zone, to continue the attack on the general axis Hagenau-Pirmasens; penetrate the Siegfried Line; capture the high ground east and northeast of Pirmasens; and assist the advance of the XV Corps. Landau and Neustadt were to be captured by the VI Corps.

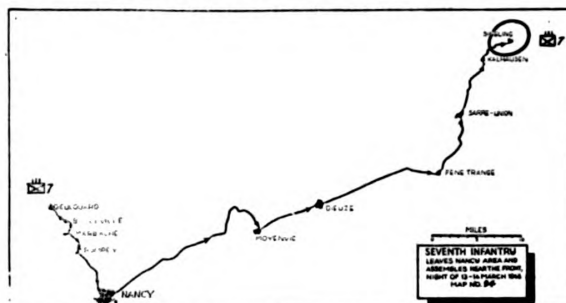
On the 7th Army's left the XXI Corps was to attack on D-Day, H-Hour, capture Saarbrücken, Neunkirchen and St. Wendel, then advance to the Rhine in its zone.

The 44th and 71st Infantry Divisions, having been on the defensive for quite some time, were to continue their missions of holding the XV Corps front line until passed through by the attacking 3rd, 45th and 100th Infantry Divisions and support the attack on D-Day, H-Hour, to the limit of range of all their available weapons. The 44th Infantry Division was to be passed through by both the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions whereupon it would assemble in Army reserve. The 71st Infantry Division was to be passed through by the 100th Infantry Division, then on Corps order, after D-Day, relieve elements of the 100th Infantry Division in the vicinity of Bitche.

Plans called for the veteran 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions to make the main XV Corps attack. The "Rock of the Marne" Division was to make its main effort initially in the direction of Schweyen-Oberauebach, breach the Siegfried Line east of Rimschweiler, capture that part of Zweibrücken in its zone, the high ground in the area of Weisbach, Morsbach and Winterbach, then continue the attack in the direction of Kinds-

bach to capture Kaiserslautern. It was to then be prepared to assist in the exploitation with at least one motorized regimental combat team.

The main effort of the 45th, or "Thunderbird", Division was to be initially in the direction of Obergailbach, Seywiller, Wattweiler and Hombourg. The "Thunderbirds" were to breach the Siegfried Line east of the Blies River, capture that portion of Zweibrücken within its zone, capture Hombourg and the high ground in the area of Reiskirchen, Hombourg and Bechhofen.



Then it was to continue the attack in the direction of Weilerbach and assist the "Rock of the Marne" Division in the capture of Kaiserslautern by seizing the high ground in the vicinity of Morlautern, to protect the Corps' left, or west, flank and be prepared to assist in the exploitation with at least one motorized regimental combat team.

The 100th, or "Century", Division was to attack through left elements of the 71st Infantry Division, on the XV Corps right, to capture Bitche, the Camp de Bitche and the high ground in zone north and south thereof. Thereafter the "Centurymen" were to advance north with all or part of the division and protect the right or east flank of XV Corps.

The 6th Armored Division was to be prepared on XV Corps order after D-Day for prompt displacement to areas near Wittling, Sarre-Union and Butten. After H-Hour the tank division was to maintain suitable liaison and command personnel with necessary transportation and communication facilities at the command posts of the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions. It was to maintain active reconnaissance and up-to-the-minute plans for rapid movement to exploit a breakthrough by the regular, "dirt" Infantry, which, as usual, had the dirty work of removing the obstacles. The armored division was to be prepared on six hours notice to pass through either or both of the attacking 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions on XV Corps order and secure exits to the Rhine Plain at Baddurkheim, Grunstat and Driesen prepared to continue a rapid advance to the Rhine itself.

The 106th Cavalry Group, with one company of the 1109th Engineer Combat Group attached, was to be prepared to move on XV Corps order on three hours notice to cover the Corps' right, or east, flank from the vicinity of Walschbronn, until relieved by the 100th Infantry Division; to reconnoiter to the east and northeast. After a breach of the Siegfried Line was to be made the cavalrymen were to cover the Corps' left, or west, flank, initially from the vicinity of Kusel and St. Wendell, and to reconnoiter to the north and northwest.

PLANS FOR THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION

For the new offensive the Third Infantry or "Rock of the Marne" Division was to be supported by elements of XV Corps Artillery, the 1101st Engineer Combat Group, elements of Battery "A", 353 Searchlight Battalion, which was to provide "artificial moonlight" from

H plus 30 until daylight on D-Day and thereafter as requested, and the XII Tactical Air Command. A maximum of air effort was prepared to support the attack. During the morning of D-Day medium bombers were to operate continuously on Siegfried Line defenses in the division's zone.

For the new operation which was called "Earthquake", Major General O'Daniel selected the 30th Infantry Regiment to attack alongside of the "7th Light Foot" Infantry.¹ With the Seventh on the left, the two

regiments were to attack abreast in the Third Infantry Division zone of action with the utmost speed and aggressiveness on D-Day, H-Hour, through elements of the 44th Infantry Division which occupied an irregular line from the vicinity of Hottviller to the vicinity of Rimling, France. The attacking regiments were to seize Phase Line "FEDALA" and mop up their zones. Fol-

¹ F. O. No. 2, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Pont-A-Mousson, France, 13 Mar. '45.



lowing rapid coordination on Phase Line "FEDALA" they were to continue the advance with utmost speed to Phase Line "FRANCE". There the combat teams were to be prepared on division order to rapidly breach the Siegfried Line in their zones, capture Zweibrücken and then advance rapidly to seize objectives on Phase Line "COME". As in past operations the attacking regiments were directed to destroy all enemy encountered. The flanks were to be protected and contact maintained with adjacent units. Commencing at daylight the regiments were to be prepared to smoke the objectives.

The 15th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, initially to be held in reserve, was to be prepared to assume the mission of either assault combat team. On division order it was to be prepared to exploit the advance in the division zone by employing reinforced transportation to motorize itself. Close liaison was to be provided with the assault combat teams and up-to-the-minute plans, including route data, for rapid employment, were to be maintained. The "Dragon" Regiment was to be prepared to breach the Siegfried Line.

Major General O'Daniel wanted the attack "pressed with the ruthless vigor that has routed every enemy formation opposing the Third Division." The men were to be brought to the highest possible state of offensive spirit prior to the jump-off. Bayonets were ordered to be sharpened. The division commander directed that maximum effort be exercised at all times to seize and secure bridges; and that commanders exercise every measure to insure secrecy and tactical surprise. All combat vehicles operating north of the line of departure commencing at daylight, D-Day, were to display cerise, or orange, panels to identify themselves to friendly aircraft, and all units were to be prepared to mark the front lines with smoke or panels on call. By-passing technique was directed to be used to the maximum for the new operation and the regiments were to be prepared to initiate night actions of not less than reinforced company size each night. Ordinarily a darkness objective line would be established and the unit ear-marked for the night effort would pass through leading elements on that line. To the maximum extent possible, a battalion was to be used for the night action and be rested during the daytime. It was further directed that every effort be made to remove mines from main routes prior to daylight, D-Day. Gas masks were to be carried by all personnel. The use of the alternate code signs was to be discontinued effective at H-Hour. After that time the regular insignia, markings and signs, which were to be removed or covered before leaving the Nancy area, would be used.

7th INFANTRY MOVES TO THE FRONT ONCE MORE AND PREPARES TO ATTACK

Following his receipt of orders for the new operation, late during the night of 12 March, Colonel Heintges dispatched billeting and reconnaissance parties early the next morning for the initial areas to be occupied by the Regiment, about seven miles south of the international boundary line between France and Germany, in the vicinity of Kalhausen, southeast of Sarreguemines and east of the river Sarre.

Moving in three serials the Regiment motor-marched during the night of 13-14 March 1945 via Pompey, Nancy, Highway No. 74, Moyenvic, Dieuze, Fenetrange, Sarre-Union, Oermingen and Kalhausen to assembly areas in the vicinity of Singling, France. The Regiment made the seventy-five mile motor-march without incident and was closed into the new area at 0230. Reconnaissance was conducted and plans formulated for the

new offensive action. The Regimental Command Post moved on to Bettviller during the morning. As D-Day was the 15th of March and H-Hour was established as 0100 there was no time to waste, but the Regimental Field and Staff completed its preliminary work with time to spare. Colonel Heintges conferred with his battalion commanders and issued his instructions for the attack. He ordered that the battalions be moved at dusk to designated concentrations areas near the line of departure held by the 44th Infantry Division elements. Lieutenant Colonels Wallace and Duncan were ordered to attack with their battalions at H-Hour, 0100, on 15 March 1945.

As the zone of the Seventh Infantry was split by La Bickenalbe River the Commanding Officer outlined three plans for the attack.² Under Plan 1, the First Battalion, on the left, was to attack to the north and seize Objectives 5, 4, 3 and 2 in order and attack Objective 1 from the rear, at the same time, with at least one company, which, upon clearing of Objective 1 was to be prepared to assist the remainder of the battalion in reducing Objective 2. The Second Battalion on the right was to advance rapidly and seize Objectives 6, 8, 11, 10, 9 and 7. The bridge at Peppenkum, Objective 9, was to be seized and secured. During the seizure of Objective 7, Objectives 11, 10 and 9 were to be held with sufficient forces to protect the right flank. The Third Battalion, in reserve initially, was to be ready to attack rapidly to the northeast on Regimental order and seize Ormersviller, Objective 12; to protect the right flank and establish contact with the 30th Infantry on the right.

In the event La Bickenalbe River could not be crossed by the First Battalion between Objectives 5 and 4, Plan 2 would then be put into effect which called for Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops to continue the attack rapidly from Objective 5 to Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7 with blocking elements left at Objectives 10 and 9 to secure the flank. Under Plan 2 the Second Battalion after taking Objective 6 was to move on 11 and 12 and forget Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7. The Third Battalion was to be committed on the left under Plan 2, rather than on the right, to seize Objectives 1, 2, 4 and 3, which were the little towns of Guiderkirch and Erching, the southeast arm of Baumbusch woods and high ground in the vicinity of La Bickenalbe stream.

Plan 3 was to develop out of Plan 2 in the event the First Battalion could not cross La Bickenalbe stream at Objective 9. In that event the Red Troops were to seize and hold Objective 10 and the right half of Objective 9, be prepared to resume the advance to the north or northeast. The Second Battalion was not to be affected by execution of Plan 3, its mission was to remain the same as in Plan 2 but the Third Battalion was to continue its attack from Phase Line "FEDALA" and seize Objective 7 and the west half of Objective 9 prepared to continue the attack.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol was to remain in Concentration Area "C" prepared to move on order as a "mopping up" or combat patrolling force.

Anti-Tank Company was to move from its initial assembly area, commencing at H-Hour, to Concentration Area "C" prepared to be employed as a tank destroyer or "bazooka" company. Its 57mm guns were to be held in the initial assembly area.

No artillery preparations were to be fired in advance of H-Hour but the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and Cannon Company were to support the attack from previously reconnoitered positions on call.

² Operations Instruction No. 19, HQ, 7th Infantry, 14 Mar '45.

Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, was to attach one mine sweeping detail to each of the First and Second Battalions then move the remainder of the company to Concentration Area "D", commencing at H-Hour, prepared to clear mines and obstacles and open roads in the Regimental zone, on order.

Company "A" and the First Platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, a Detachment of Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, were to move from initial assembly areas to Concentration Areas "A" and "B", commencing at H-Hour. As soon as routes of advance were declared open the armor was to be promptly attached to the attacking rifle battalions.

Company "B", 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion, was to assemble initially in Area "E" prepared to reconnoiter and occupy firing positions on order.

The Third Reconnaissance Troop and Third Division Battle Patrol were attached to the Regiment and ordered to assemble in Concentration Area "C" commencing at H-Hour and be prepared to exploit any breakthrough by rapid advance in the Regimental zone.

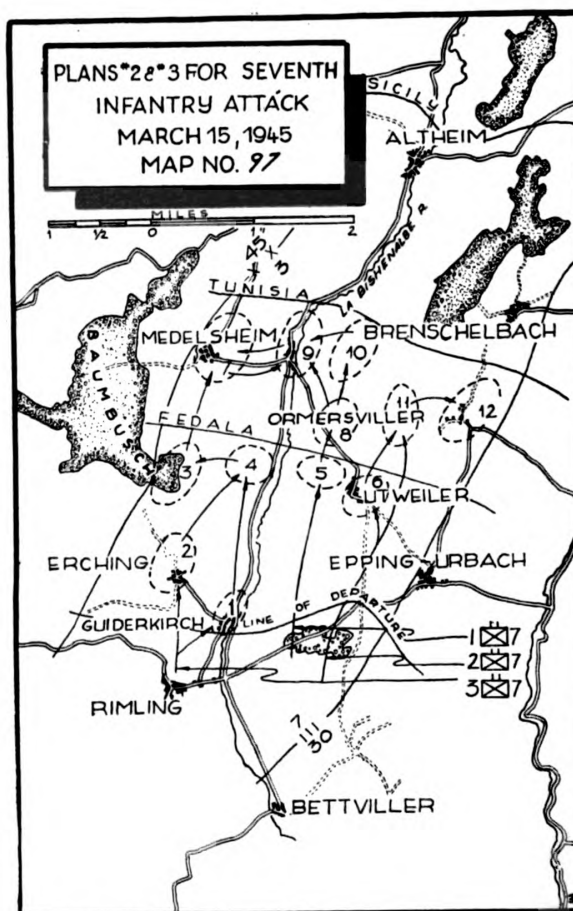
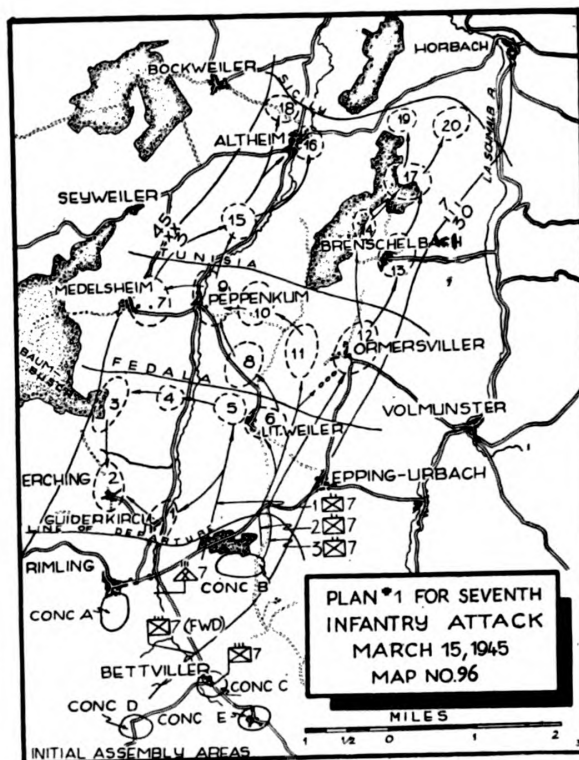
All attachments were to maintain constant liaison with the Regimental War Room or Command Post.

The estimate made of the enemy situation was that the attack by the Seventh Infantry would initially encounter elements of the 17 SS Panzer Grenadier Division which included the 37th and 38th SS Regiments. Approximately 25 to 40 enemy were known to occupy the houses at Guiderkirch and conducted sniper action whenever American troops approached. Frequently an assault gun from the 17 SS Tank Battalion, which consisted of from 18 to 20 assault 75mm guns, had fired on American troops from the vicinity of Le Mertzewald and Baumbusch woods. Enemy troops were said to be mostly conscripted soldiers who often patrolled into the 44th Infantry Division lines and surrendered on the least provocation. Within the previous week the enemy had been replacing the conscripted personnel with whatever troops he could assemble from his baggage trains and rear echelon personnel which consisted of quartermaster and train personnel, reconnaissance, engineer and anti-aircraft artillery troops. An estimated 200 to 300 enemy troops were expected on the Regimental front.

The enemy defenses consisted initially of hasty field fortifications and thence the mighty Siegfried Line defenses. Although the enemy had prepared elaborate trenches, weapons pits and bunkers, patrols had established the fact that the Germans continued to maintain a "floating defense", probably due to the lack of personnel to man all the defensive positions. Two-man fighting holes covered with logs and earth formed small bunkers that would be encountered at tactical localities. From Eppenkirchen to Wiesskirchen the enemy regularly manned reverse slopes. However, positions had been prepared on crests and were expected to be occupied on alarm. South of Ormersviller the enemy was organizing small delaying positions which consisted of foxholes and machine gun emplacements.

The only enemy armor reported in the Seventh Infantry sector was that of the 17th SS Tank Battalion mentioned above as consisting of 18 to 20 self-propelled guns. Use of the armor would be limited due to terrain conditions. However the road net was complete and would assist greatly in armor employment.

Because American patrols had had very few casualties due to mines, and the 44th Infantry Division leaders had reported that the enemy mine fields were easily identified with the majority of the mines consisting of anti-



tank mines placed on top of the ground and booby trapped mines that were identified by stakes with red and white ribbons attached, it was not expected that too much trouble would be experienced from mines. There the estimate erred, as actually for the preceding month while the 44th and 71st Infantry Divisions had done nothing but hold, without aggressive defensive tactics being employed, the enemy had heavily increased his mine defenses. That was readily discovered once the night attack got underway and German Schu. Teller and anti-tank box mines began to explode.

Enemy air activity had been practically non-existent. Two weeks previous, with two captured American planes, the enemy had attacked the town of Bining. Only high altitude photographic planes had been identified during daylight hours. It therefore was not expected that the enemy would concentrate heavy air activities during the initial attacks.

Enemy artillery fire had been extremely light throughout the sector with small concentrations merging on one place at a time. The German artillery had been slow in

reacting to American patrol action and all enemy artillery observed had been of light calibre. After breaching his initial defenses it was expected the enemy artillery would become even lighter but it was known the enemy would employ all his available self-propelled assault guns to cover the artillery withdrawal.

The terrain in the Seventh Infantry sector began with rolling ground. The predominating hills were north of Utweiler. The valley of La Bickenalbe stream, which was in the left center and parallel to the axis of advance, constituted the Seventh Infantry zone of action. Little was known of the road conditions but it was expected that armor would be able to operate over the roads and trails along the ridgeline in the right sector of the zone. As the attack should advance the terrain would become increasingly rough with cross valleys such as was encountered in the Domfaing-Les Rouges Eaux areas in the Vosges campaign.

The enemy was expected to defend on his positions and maneuver local reserves to the Siegfried Line, then perform a delaying action under pressure of the attacks.

CHAPTER II

Seventh Infantry Leads the Third Infantry Division into Germany and Breaches the Siegfried Line

At dusk 14 March the Seventh Infantry troops moved from their assembly areas in the vicinity of Singling France. The First Battalion closed into Concentration Area "A" near Rimling while the Second and Third Battalions closed into Concentration Area "B" near Le Buchenbusch woods.

A revision of the plan in regard to the use of artillery was made. Though the original plan called for no artillery preparations before the jump-off at H-Hour, it was decided to lay heavy concentrations on the area above Phase Line "FEDALA" at the time of attack.

It was a cool, damp night with no snow on the ground. The rains of the previous days had made the ground gooey and sticky with mud.

While the artillery boomed, the First and Second Battalions passed through the 324th Infantry Regiment of the 44th Infantry Division and precisely at 0100 jumped off in the attack. A machine gun was encountered almost immediately by the First Battalion troops but overcome and the troops on the left moved rapidly to establish another first for the Regiment by being the first Third Infantry Division troops into Germany. First Scout, Private First Class Wayne T. Alderson, of "Baker" Company, was the first "Cotton Baler" to step across the international boundary line into Germany. The official time for the entry of "Baker" Company into the enemy's homeland was 0131, thirty-one minutes after H-Hour.

The First Battalion troops continued to advance rapidly and overcame small arms resistance. As the lead elements closed on Objective 5, Company "A" branched off to the left and attacked Guiderkirch from the rear.

Following clean-up of Objective 5, Companies "B" and "C" crossed La Bickenalbe stream with little trouble. At 0520 the First Battalion troops had seized Objective 4, Road Junction 304, and were moving for the Baum-

busch woods which were also seized. Company "C", under the command of First Lieutenant William T. Wright, was left in the woods and the high ground nearby, as Company "B", commanded by Captain James B. Rich, Jr., pushed south for Erching.

At 0530 when Company "B" was halted near Erching, France, by fire from two German Mark IV tanks, Private First Class Clarence Firestone advanced in a lone assault on the enemy armor. Carrying his "bazooka", he crawled and ran about 125 yards through tank and machine gun fire and ignored bullets which struck his entrenching tool. Fifty yards from the first tank he set it afire with a single rocket. Two Germans were killed and the second tank was forced to withdraw. Company "B" was then able to resume its advance. Private First Class Firestone was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his heroism.³

Company "A", commanded by First Lieutenant Abraham S. Jaffe, encountered strong enemy resistance in and around Guiderkirch. At 0430 Colonel Heintges ordered the Regimental Battle Patrol to move on the town from the south and help clear up the situation by contacting Company "A". The patrol encountered enemy on the southern edge of the town.

When Company "A" was halted in a narrow ditch under machine gun cross-fire and heavy mortar concentrations, Private William D. Avery voluntarily crawled out of the ditch in a singlehanded assault on the enemy automatic weapons. Advancing 15 yards over exposed terrain through enemy fire, he engaged two German machine guns in a duel at close range, emptied eight magazines from his Browning automatic rifle into the hostile emplacements, killed three Germans and silenced the weapons. His intrepid action enabled Company "A"

³ For authority see GO No. 342, HQ, 7th Army, 28 July '45.

to resume the attack and capture its objective. For the heroism he displayed Private Avery was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.⁴

Company "A" and the Battle Patrol continued to engage the enemy in and around Guiderkirch in a stiff battle but won the contest at 0900 when the town was declared clear of all resisting enemy and 53 Germans were held as prisoners of war.

Following the attack made by Private First Class Firestone on the enemy tanks, Company "B" seized Erching during the morning against moderate resistance.

For the First Battalion that early morning, Private Lawrence R. Rousseau and Private Edward J. Vilt of Company "A", Private Earl K. Stevenson of Company "B", Staff Sergeant Oakley Salisbury, Sergeant John F. Kreis, Private Cecil B. Coffin, who was killed in a subsequent action, and Technician Fifth Grade Herbert G. Johnson, all of Company "D", Private Albert E. Whittington and Private Robert R. Willbanks of First Battalion Headquarters Company displayed gallantry in action.⁵

In spite of the resistance encountered matters had gone quite smoothly for the First Battalion forces but not so for Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's charges. Shortly after crossing the line of departure with Companies "E" and "F" abreast and "G" following in reserve, the Second Battalion troops entered a field heavily strewn with mines which began to explode. The explosions of the German Schu mines notified the enemy of the Second Battalion's location and within a short time mortar and artillery fire commenced to fall on the hapless battalion. The inevitable result was that the command became badly disorganized with numerous casualties sustained. Most unfortunate from the standpoint of the welfare of the battalion as a whole was when the personnel carrying the radio equipment of the battalion and of the artillery forward observer, First Lieutenant Jack Ivester, were killed, wounded or dispersed and the radios lost or destroyed. Without communication the battalion commander could not immediately notify his commanding officer of the plight his troops were in or call for supporting artillery fire. Company "H" having its personnel distributed with the rifle companies lost three of its radios destroyed and two entire machine gun sections lost by casualties and dispersal.

In the darkness of the night and confusion while under fire it was exceedingly difficult to fully reorganize. Some there were who withdrew and straggled. The Second Battalion greatly reduced in strength, possibly fifty percent, moved on out of the field and drove on for Utweiler which was entered and captured against moderate resistance between 0530 and 0600. About sixty enemy were taken prisoners of war.

Through great leadership and gallantry displayed by men of all ranks the Second Battalion had overcome its first great obstacle and driven on to Utweiler with a fraction of its original strength. First Sergeant David M. Carroll of Company "E" lost his right foot when he stepped on a mine that morning. Though seriously wounded he refused immediate treatment, encouraged others to continue on to the objective and directed the evacuation of other wounded personnel. Private Clarence W. Mai of Company "G", who was severely wounded in the face by fragments; Private First Class Joseph P. Germershausen, an aid man of the Medical Detachment who was wounded in both legs and blinded by a detonated mine, and Technical Sergeant Aubrey D. Miller of Company "H" were three others who were gallant and sacrificing during the terrible experience. Captain George W. Yarnall, the Second Battalion Surgeon, moved for-

ward through the shell fire and exploding mines to aid the casualties. For hours he performed amputations, administered blood plasma, applied dressings and evacuated casualties. Technician Fifth Grade Joseph O. Kitchen of Second Battalion Headquarters Company, though wounded in action, voluntarily continued duty and was first to sight enemy tanks approaching on Utweiler and gave the alarm. Private Hobart E. Brown of the Medical Detachment performed many mercy missions.⁶

The Blue Battalion moving up behind the Second also experienced trouble. Its artillery radios were knocked out by enemy fire and casualties were sustained. Though the mine-sweeping squads of Company "A", 10th Engineers, and Anti-Tank Mine Platoon assisted by the Ammunition and Pioneer Platoon of the 324th Infantry Regiment had been at work clearing mines, there were many, mostly plastic or wooden mines, that had not been detected or removed. This was soon discovered when the armor started to move to the support of the foot troops. Four tanks moving to the support of the Second Battalion were disabled by the exploding mines. Then counter-action by the enemy delayed a resumption of the attack until later in the day.

The Third Division Commander called the Regimental War Room for the situation at 0415 that morning and after receiving what was known, revealed that the 30th Infantry on the right had encountered strong resistance and was making little headway. He was told the "Cotton Baler" Third Battalion was moving up behind the Second Battalion ready to be committed. At 0615 he called back and directed that the Third Battalion be used to take Objectives 8, 10, 9 and 7 but the Commanding Officer could not comply as the flanks were too exposed due to the forward position of the troops. A series of setbacks occurred that prevented the Commanding Officer from carrying out "Iron Mike's" wishes.

At about 0730 that morning the enemy directed flak-wagon fire and fire from self-propelled guns at the Second Battalion forces in Utweiler and then at about 0800 closed in on the town with a combination of four flak-wagons and nine tanks and tank destroyers, which included two "Tigers". It was a tough situation to be in without support of any kind. Attached armor had not gotten through to the battalion and without communication, artillery could not be called into play. That was the fundamental reason for the almost complete destruction of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion that day. Communications personnel of the Regiment and Second Battalion had not laid telephonic lines of communication to the forward position and without radios there was no means of communication with the Regimental Commander, except by foot messenger. The situation grew worse in just a few minutes. The enemy armor closed in on the town from three sides and began shooting it up, then enemy Infantry of about 200 in number attacked. The houses one by one were lowered or badly damaged by the enemy fire. "Cotton Balers" fought back with "bazookas" and rifles and with what few machine guns

⁴ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

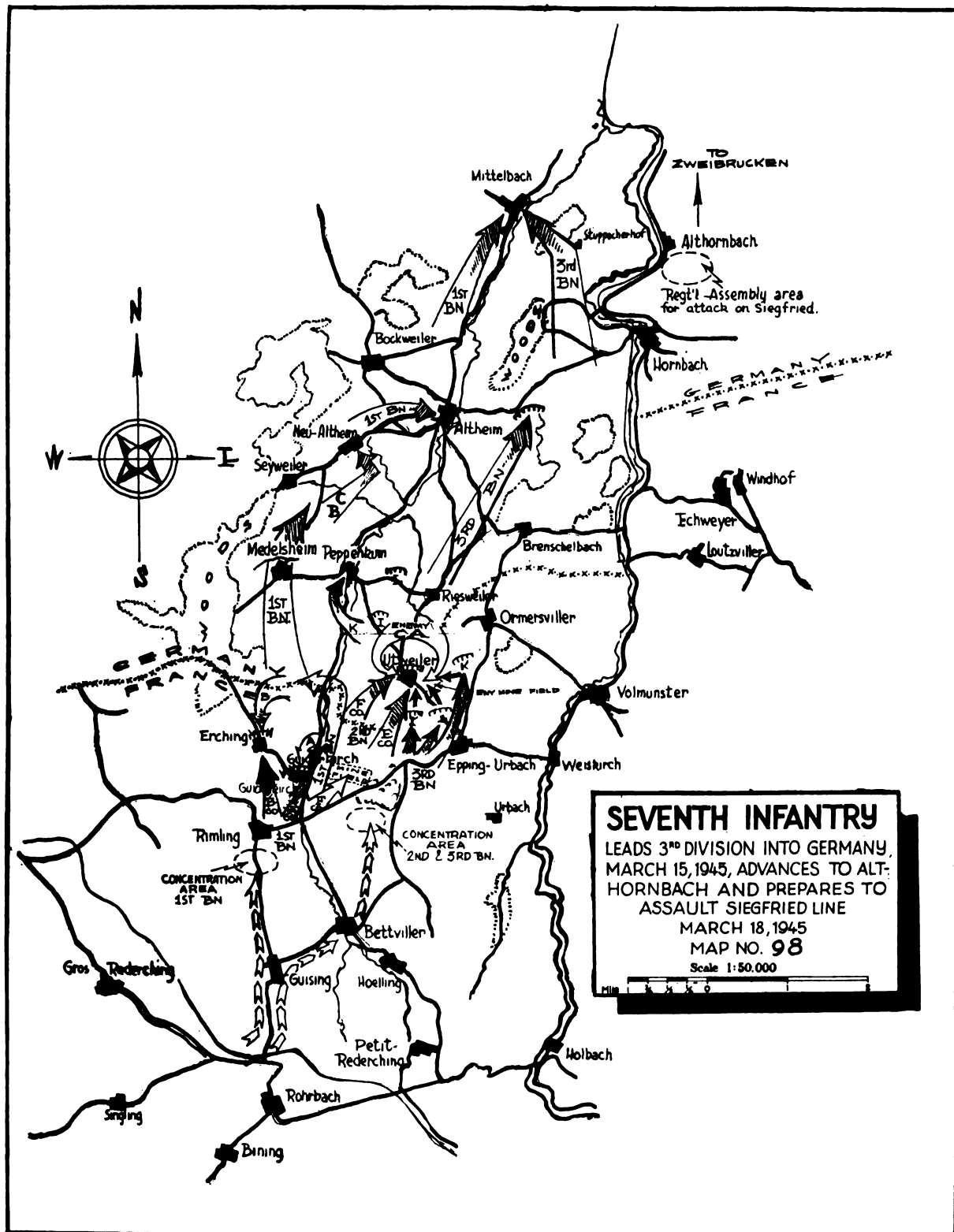
⁵ GOs No. 175, 177, 182, 187, 226, 262 & 313, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24, 25, 28 & 30 May, 24 June, 18 July & 27 Aug. '45. Pvt. Coffin (posthumously), S/Sgt. Salisbury, Sgt. Kreis, T/5 Johnson, Pvts. Rousseau, Stevenson, Vilt, Whittington & Willbanks were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶ GOs No. 187, 198, 208, 227, 249, 264 & 268, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May, 7, 12 & 25 June, 10, 19 & 21 July '45. Capt. Yarnall, 1 Sgt. Carroll, T/Sgt. Miller, T/5 Kitchen, Pfc Germershausen, Pvts. Brown & Mai were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

were on hand until the ammunition was exhausted. Many officers and men were killed and wounded. Great confusion existed and command was lost. Groups were forced to surrender to the enemy, others tried to hide

themselves and a few made a run for it to escape. The Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, for all intents and purposes, had been destroyed.

Though the Commanding Officer knew the Second



Battalion was in serious trouble he did not know that a catastrophe had befallen the White Battalion troops. The first definite information came at 0950 when a call from the 30th Infantry's Second Battalion Command Post was received and an officer stated that a sergeant from the Seventh Infantry's Company "H" had entered with word concerning the White Battalion. Staff Sergeant James R. Shipp was put on the phone and in a halting voice, tense with emotion and excitement, said: "Our forces—occupying the town of Utweiler—were surrounded—by six enemy tanks—and the tanks were closing in on the town—there was no enemy Infantry with the enemy tanks—most of the battalion—is still in town—enemy tanks blowing down all the buildings in the town—Battalion CO is still in the town—have no communication with the battalion."

The sergeant was told to remain where he was and that transportation would be sent for him.

At 1100 First Lieutenant John Ananich, Jr., of Company "H" who also had escaped, and Staff Sergeant Shipp entered the War Room. The lieutenant stated that to him at least five known enemy tanks and one other vehicle had surrounded Utweiler and shot it up. "We had the choice of giving up or making a go for it, which a few of us did. We did everything we could. Had the town captured and about 60 PWs taken. We used up all of our bazooka ammo. Outside the town I entered a pill box where there were 15 Company 'E' men. The First Sergeant of Company 'E' lay there with one leg shot off."

The lieutenant further stated that many troops in Utweiler surrendered to the enemy. When asked the size of the enemy tanks he stated he did not have time to determine their size.

It was a bad report to receive. It was hoped the situation was not so bad as reported by the sergeant and his lieutenant. The Commanding Officer alerted the Third Battalion, Anti-Tank Company and attached armor of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion that they would make an attack with artillery support at 1405 to retake Utweiler and rescue the remnants of the Second Battalion.

Then the Commanding Officer himself went to the front to direct the attack. When four of the attached tanks struck mines on a road and then sustained direct hits from hostile shell fire, Colonel Heintges persuaded remaining tanks, which had withdrawn, to follow him back up the road. Despite intense enemy self-propelled shells that hit less than 50 yards from him and although flak fire swept the area, Colonel Heintges brought the armor 500 yards up the road and inspired the crews to launch the attack with the riflemen.⁷

When 1300 came around and no word was received from Lieutenant Colonel Duncan it was assumed he was killed, wounded or taken prisoner. By that time 150 personnel from the Second Battalion had been picked up. They were those who had been dispersed in the mine fields at the beginning of the operation.

At 1400 a terrific, revengeful, artillery preparation, was opened up by the 10th Field Artillery Battalion and other battalions in the form of a "box barrage" on Utweiler, with no fire in the fourth quadrant, as it was there that Colonel Heintges believed that the surviving Second Battalion forces in the town were located, which was correct. As the artillery roared vengeance on the Germans, Companies "I" and "L", and the "bazooka" teams of Anti-Tank Company, supported by 15 pieces of armor, launched their powerful attack to retake Utweiler. Air missions and artillery were fired on Pepenkum, Medelsheim and Ormersviller.

The enemy felt the fury and power of the assault and could not hold up for long under it, but the Germans put up a bitter fight and finally withdrew from Utweiler very reluctantly. Captain William D. Anthony vigorously led Company "I" in the assault and it was his company that first entered the town that afternoon for the rescuing forces. His men shattered the German Infantry defenses guarding the town. Advancing boldly through concentrated enemy artillery fire he brought his men to cover. Although severely wounded by German flak fire, Captain Anthony directed the assault on, and seizure of, Utweiler, Germany, and retained command with inflexible willpower until he lost consciousness. Captain Anthony was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions of that day.⁸

Company "I" was first reported in Utweiler at 1512. Company "L", under the command of Captain John E. DeLeon, entered shortly after that. The armor of the 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion and the bazooka-men of Anti-Tank Company did some good shooting that day. A total of seven enemy tanks and tank destroyers were destroyed by their fire. By 1830 the re-inforced Third Battalion forces and Anti-Tank Company had re-taken Utweiler.

Staff Sergeant James L. Clayton, Sergeant Robert B. Humbert and Private First Class Lorenzo Medina, all of Company "F", were among the personnel captured by the enemy in the morning. In the afternoon during the friendly artillery concentrations which scored many hits on enemy positions, including the building they occupied, the three "Fox" Company soldiers capitalized on enemy confusion to seize hostile weapons. When



1 Lt. Robert W. Rankin, Co. "F", was one of the 37 "Cotton Balers" who were killed during the action for Utweiler, Germany.

approximately 30 surprised German guards attempted to thwart their escape, the three "Cotton Balers" fired at the enemy, wounded one and caused the others to surrender over to them. One half hour later the friendly Third Battalion forces re-captured the town.⁹

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, his S-2, Second Lieutenant Albert V. Becker, Jr., Private Jerome Schmuckler and one other soldier were found in a bomb crater which was partly filled with water and located south of Utweiler. The Second Battalion commander and his

⁷ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. Col. Heintges was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁸ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

⁹ GO No. 257, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. S/Sgt. Clayton, Sgt. Humbert & Pfc Medina were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

three companions had been in the hole with water to their arm pits for seven hours. Nineteen wounded members of the Second Battalion were found in the town as the Germans had not had time to evacuate all the wounded prisoners that they had taken, though it was learned that they did take with them First Lieutenant Harold W. Erhardt of Company "H", who had been seriously wounded.

Only a few members of the White Battalion other than those already named were found to have successfully hidden themselves from the Germans and escaped capture. Among the small number were First Lieutenant Eugene Bacon, the commanding officer of Company "H", and First Lieutenant Charles W. Webb of Second Battalion Headquarters Company. As the heavy weapons company had its sections divided among the rifle companies First Lieutenants Bacon and Webb had entered Utweiler with Company "E" and a command group of the Second Battalion.

From the few survivors a partial story of the tragic events of that dark morning were unfolded. In referring to the enemy tanks that attacked the White Battalion forces, First Lieutenant Bacon said: "They attacked in Indian fashion surrounding the town. Then they proceeded to lower the houses on us. They started on the north end of the town and fired on the stone houses lowering them, and firing on those men who were outside in foxholes. Many of the houses caught fire. The house my group was in caught fire and we moved back. Men in other houses were also forced to withdraw and it developed into sort of a rout. Much confusion existed. Thirty-five of us gathered in one house. When the enemy Infantry attacked and started throwing hand grenades in the windows some of the men started to surrender. The group fought it out for about 15 minutes until one man succeeded in running out and yelling "Kamarad" and gave up. Others followed suit and the situation was lost."¹⁰

First Lieutenants Bacon and Webb then fled themselves and escaped to the cellar where they hid in a potato bin and covered themselves over with boards, straw and potatoes. The Germans occupied the house and the two lieutenants had to remain in hiding. Frequently Germans would enter the cellar to look around. Once a German SS major sat on a board two feet from First Lieutenant Webb's head and ate some American rations that had been taken from the prisoners. The two officers reported that First Lieutenant Erhardt had been brought into the house by the Germans and for a time they could hear the Germans talking to him and recognized his voice when he replied, though he talked but little. The two officers said that the Germans did not mind the American artillery or planes but definitely did not like the Infantry-armor attack put on that afternoon. "We remained in the bin covered over for seven hours and were badly cramped when rescued at about five o'clock."¹⁰

Lieutenant Colonel Duncan entered the Regimental War Room at 1840. His clothes were soaked and muddy and he appeared slightly shocked. When he spoke his voice was weak but the old fire was there and he said: "It's the first time I fought a war without radio or armor and it will be the last time." He was unhurt except for two slight scratch wounds from flying mine fragments. He stated that some men were killed and buried in the rubble of Utweiler and also, with a tinge of sadness, that many had been forced to surrender to the enemy.

For the Third Battalion that afternoon during the counter-attack which re-captured Utweiler, Captain

John E. DeLeon, First Lieutenant Charles A. Brown, Private First Class Elias A. Hernandez and Private Charles A. Carothers, all of Company "L", and First Lieutenant Sam S. Fitzsimmons and Second Lieutenant Carl E. Retherford of Company "I" distinguished themselves.¹¹

On that dark day of 15 March 1945 while the Seventh Infantry had once more led the Third Infantry Division in its achievements by being first for the Division into Germany and had made the deepest penetration, it had suffered a grievous blow. For the first time in World War II and possibly for all time (though the writer has no detailed information regarding action prior to this war) the Seventh Infantry had had a battalion rendered almost totally ineffective. Once before, on the Anzio Beachhead during the bloody battles of 30 January 1944, a battalion had been greatly reduced, even to smaller numbers than the Second Battalion on 15 March 1945, but there had remained some semblance of command and its survivors were not dispersed and scattered. It remained, though woefully weak, a fighting unit. The Second Battalion on 15 March 1945 as a fighting unit was virtually destroyed. There was the task of gathering up the scattered remnants and reconstituting it.

First Lieutenant Joseph G. Lambert, Motor Officer of the Second Battalion, reported into the Regimental War Room during the evening and gave the following information in regard to the strength of the elements gathered up:

	Officers	Enlisted Men
Company "E"	1	10
Company "F"	0	2
Company "G"	1	39
Company "H"	3	68
Battalion Hqrs. Co.	4	56
Total	9	175

The Second Battalion had gone into the night attack with 640 officers and men¹² and in the space of several hours had been reduced to 184 scattered and ineffective personnel. Records compiled later showed that of the 456 personnel missing, 21 had been killed in the action, 72 wounded and evacuated, 17 missing and 222 had been taken prisoners by the enemy. The other 124 members were to be gathered up in the next two days.

"Fox" Company had sustained the greatest losses. Captain Earl E. Swanson, one of the ablest company commanders to lead a "Cotton Baler" rifle company during this war and who had risen from the grade of private, and First Lieutenant Robert W. Rankin, with thirteen of their men, gave their lives. The enlisted men of the company who were killed by the mines or exploding enemy shells were Master Sergeant Arthur C. Rose, Staff Sergeant Leonard Berg, Privates First Class Hubert

¹⁰ As told to the writer by Lt. Bacon on 18 Mar. '45.

¹¹ GOs No. 175, 177, 227, 228, 295 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 25 May, 25 & 26 June, 9 Aug. & 17 Sept. '45. Capt. De Leon, 1 Lt. Brown, 1 Lt. Fitzsimmons, 2 Lt. Rutherford, Pfc Hernandez & Pvt. Carothers were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹² Only on one or two occasions in World War II had the 7th Infantry gone into combat with her rifle battalions at full strength. The rifle companies and battalions operated with numbers far below the Table of Organization figures while Service and Headquarters Companies operated with as much as 20 per cent overstrength. Reinforcements were received only when the total figures for the Regiment fell below the figure established for a Rifle Regiment as a whole. Therefore the rifle elements of the Regiment were practically always under strength.

H. A. Kleibocker, Edward M. Kolodziej, John Mekruit and William T. Neal, and Privates Edward D. Clark, John T. Creegan, Cleborn S. Davis, Marie DeSiste, Kenneth L. Duncan, Paul D. Gibson and George C. Sallee. Their names rank with the immortals of the gallant Seventh Infantry.

The number from Company "F" who were wounded and evacuated was not so large as the number killed. Staff Sergeant Gilbert Susser, Privates First Class Hillary H. Medford, Robert A. Nast and Norman Snyder were seriously wounded while Privates First Class Matthew Bielski, Benjamin E. Loup, and Privates Daniel V. Donahue and John H. Rose were lightly wounded. Eighty-three members of Company "F" were taken prisoners by the enemy including Second Lieutenants William R. Telley, Donald H. McKibbin and Charles E. Segler, Jr.



Sgts. Shepherd and Crawford of the Second Battalion Medical Detachment are photographed in the main street of Utweiler the day after the "Battle of Utweiler".

Company "E" did not lose so many killed as did Company "F" but had many more wounded. The five from "Easy" Company who were killed were: Sergeant Robert H. Reynolds, Private First Class Andy Evanich, Privates Gordon C. Beader, William G. Forister and Selmer L. Pederson. On the company's seriously wounded list were First Sergeant David M. Carroll, Sergeant William V. Cattrell, Technician Fifth Grade William H. Carson, Privates First Class Odelle Coille, Floyd G. Danforth, Henry T. Flynn, John R. Lorden and Privates Arnold Cretelle, Bernard J. Flynn, Jr., Thomas L. Hrehls, Thomas P. Lyons, Dale L. Schumacher, Hoke L. Smith, Gordon H. Spiess and Joseph R. Vallero. Among the lightly wounded were the following from Company "E": Staff Sergeants Lawton J. Durrance and Shirley E. Stage, Sergeant Vernon M. Milburn, Technician Fifth Grade Walter F. Brown, Privates First Class Howard L. Bailey, Lester L. Baughman, Burland L. Bayless, Alfred L. Lukenbill, Warren S. Pearson, Harry H. Richard and Gilberto Vigil; Privates George Anderson, George B. Baker, Jr., Ben E. Banks, William D. Brown, Harold A. Bullock, Willard L. Dunlop, Herman H. Head, Harold I. Levine, T. G. Pearson, Wilbur H. Reekie, James P. Rinn, Jr., and James E. Ross. Company "E" had two officers, Second

Lieutenants Harold E. Coyle and James A. Crough, and 39 enlisted men taken prisoners of war.

Company "G", being the rifle company in reserve, Company "H" and Headquarters Company suffered badly but not like Companies "E" and "F". Sergeant Norvel C. Smith is the only man of Company "G" listed as killed on that day while "H" and Headquarters Companies do not have any men listed among the dead for the day the Regiment entered Germany. However, Technical Sergeant Frank Acker of "George" Company was so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds on the 20th and First Lieutenant Harold W. Erhardt of Company "H", who was seriously wounded and taken prisoner and evacuated by the Germans, died two weeks later in a German prisoner of war hospital, just after Americans were to capture the town in which it was located. First Lieutenant Weston S. McKane of Company "G" was missing in action while First Lieutenant Clarence J. Grant, Second Lieutenant William J. Davis and 61 enlisted men of the same company were taken prisoners of war by the enemy. "H" Company had 25 of its members taken prisoners while the Headquarters Company and Medical Detachment also had a few each. Eleven officers had been lost by the Second Battalion that morning, two killed, one missing and eight prisoners, one of whom, as mentioned, later died.

COMPANY "K" BECOMES INVOLVED IN ACTION OF ITS OWN

During the hours of darkness Company "K" had somehow avoided the mine fields and advanced to the draw northeast of Utweiler near St. Joseph's Church and not far from Ormersviller. During daylight enemy armor and riflemen took the company under fire, staged a counter-attack and kept the "King" Company "Cotton Balers" contained in the draw.

Company "K" fought for its life and succeeded in repulsing the enemy. Second Lieutenant Herbert E. Bothee, mortarmen Sergeant Richard B. Millman and Private First Class Robert H. Jurgensen, Private First Class Bruce F. Stuchbury, a Browning automatic rifleman, and Private First Class Bernard J. Ryan, a "bazooka-man", all of Company "K", and Private Hugh L. Tarrant of Company "M" were cited for actions performed.¹⁴

During the night of 15-16 March Company "K" rejoined the Third Battalion in Utweiler. Though the Regiment had sustained heavy losses on 15 March 1945, it nevertheless had accomplished a great deal, and by no means was its offensive spirit lost. Guiderkirch, Erching, Utweiler and the Baumbusch woods had been cleared, and over 200 Germans were made prisoners.

On the right the 30th Infantry had made less headway and the Third Division commander moved up the 15th Infantry to be committed through the 30th. At 2100 the First Battalion of the 15th Infantry started moving to Epping-Urbach where 30th Infantry elements were passed through and at 2210 the battalion attacked for Ormersviller, which in original plans had been a Seventh Infantry objective.¹⁵

¹⁴ GOs 175, 227, 257, 262 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 May, 25 June, 15 & 18 July & 9 Aug. '45. 2 Lt. Bothee, Sgt. Millman, Pfc Ryan, Stutchbury, Jurgensen & Pvt. Tarrant were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁵ G-3 Report No. 75, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Etting, France, 16 Mar. '45.

SEVENTH INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK AT MIDNIGHT

Following artillery preparation the Seventh Infantry, with grim determination, pressed the attack at midnight 15-16 March. The First and Third Battalions attacked abreast while Anti-Tank Company constituted the Regimental Reserve in Guiderkirch. The Third Reconnaissance Troop occupied and held Erching and maintained contact with 45th Infantry Division elements on the left.

The Third Battalion attacked in a column of companies from Utweiler with "Item" Company, under First Lieutenant Eli Levy, in the lead. At 0030 the lead company was at the road junction just north of Utweiler and moving northeast for Objective 11. Company "L" moved up and turned to the left for Objective 10, the Dickerwald woods, which were entered at 0325 in the face of artillery fire.

Meanwhile the First Battalion, attacking from Objectives 3 and 4, encountered moderate resistance and infiltrated into Medelsheim. Private Lawrence V. Tucker of Company "A" eliminated a German machine gun emplacement by killing three enemy soldiers with grenade and rifle fire, then he singlehandedly cleaned out one of the buildings in the town and took four Germans prisoners of war. Private First Class Daniel V. Peterman of Company "D", who was wounded during the fighting for Medelsheim, also distinguished himself during the action.¹⁶ Medelsheim was completely cleared of enemy soldiers during the morning.



Pfc Thomas H. Dreher, Co. "K", and Pfc Robert H. Graham, Co. "C", gave their lives for the glory of the Regiment on 16 March 1945.

Between them, the First and Third Battalions captured 231 prisoners of war during the morning of 16 March. The number included six German officers.

The 10th Field Artillery Battalion placed a TOT on Peppenkum then the Battle Patrol moved north out of Guiderkirch and found Peppenkum abandoned. Anti Tank Company moved up and occupied the town during the morning. Engineers under the protection of the Third Division Battle Patrol swept the road from Guiderkirch to Peppenkum.

Meanwhile the First Battalion of the 15th Infantry had captured Ormersviller shortly after midnight and continued on. The Third Battalion of the "Dragon" Regiment followed to Ormersviller then swung southeast and seized Volmunster, originally a 30th Infantry objective, then moved north and northeast as its Second Battalion also moved up. The 30th Infantry assembled its battalions near Volmunster by noontime and constituted Division reserve.¹⁷

At 1410 the "Cotton Baler" First and Third Battalions continued their attacks. Major Flynn's Battalion seized the little village of Riesweiler in its advance and entered the Nasserwald and Grosserwald woods. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops engaged enemy in a bitter small arms battle in Neu-Altheim at 1545. First Sergeant Herbert A. Dunn of Company "C" led an attack which killed seven Germans and captured 21 others.¹⁸

The Blue Battalion forces met only light opposition and at 1700 had passed through Objectives 14 and 17, and were on Objectives 19 and 20. By that time the First Battalion troops had cleared Neu-Altheim of all resistance. Task Force Smith, named after the Anti-Tank Company Commander and consisting of his company with a platoon of light tanks and the Division Battle Patrol, pushed up the road from Peppenkum. The Third Reconnaissance Troop continued its screening and contact mission on the left flank.

FOR THE THIRD NIGHT IN SUCCESSION THE 7th INFANTRY CONTINUES THE ATTACK

As the searchlights shone into the heavens, the Third Battalion sent out aggressive patrols and the First Battalion continued the attack at 0020 on 17 March for the third night in succession. Snipers and scattered resistance were encountered in Altheim but quickly overcome. At 0445 Altheim and Road Junction 310, at Muhlberg, Objectives 16 and 18, were taken.

Task Force Smith coming up from the south bypassed a mine field and entered Altheim. At 0630 the Third Division commander attached the Second Battalion of the 30th Infantry to the Seventh Infantry and the "Friscan" Battalion began moving for Objective 20.

At 1115 Companies "L" and "K" jumped off for the woods southeast of Mittelbach while a task force consisting of one rifle platoon from the First Battalion, a "bazooka" platoon of Anti-Tank Company and five light tanks moved from Altheim up the Mittelbach road. With little opposition the Third Battalion companies reached their objective and sent patrols into Mittelbach which was found unoccupied but heavily booby-trapped. The task force reached its objective south of the town.

The attached "Friscan" Battalion jumped off in the attack to the northeast at 1400 on the 17th. Company "F" with armor moved through Hornbach, through the Schmalscheidehenwald, to the vicinity of Auf'm Lohn. The other two rifle companies of the battalion moved up through Althornbach and at 2000 that night the "Friscan" Battalion was in position on the high ground north of the town.

7th INFANTRY BREACHES THE SIEGFRIED LINE 18-20 MARCH 1945

At about 1730 hours 17 March 1945 Major Richard T. Young, the Regimental S-3, who was located in Altheim at the time, received orders from Third Division Headquarters for the Seventh Infantry to make a complete shift to the east of more than 3,000 yards and to attack the Siegfried Line defenses northeast of Rimschweiler at 0545 the next morning. At the time Colonel Heintges was up front visiting Major Ralph M. Flynn of the Third Battalion. The Commanding Officer and his Third Battalion leader were located in a pill box on the outer fringes of the Siegfried Line, north of Mittelbach. They were studying the German Westwall defenses in that sector, as the Regimental Commander

¹⁶ GOsNo. 326 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 & 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Peterman & Pvt. Tucker were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

¹⁷ G-3 Report No. 75, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Etting, France, 16 Mar. '45.

¹⁸ GO No. 256, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 July '45. 1 Sgt. Dunn was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

expected to have the Seventh Infantry called upon to penetrate the defenses in that zone, where he had good information to believe, and later events proved him to be correct, the defenses were thinner than those northeast of Rimschweiler and greatly undermanned. By interrogating prisoners of war captured in the Mittelbach area he had learned of the defensive strength there.

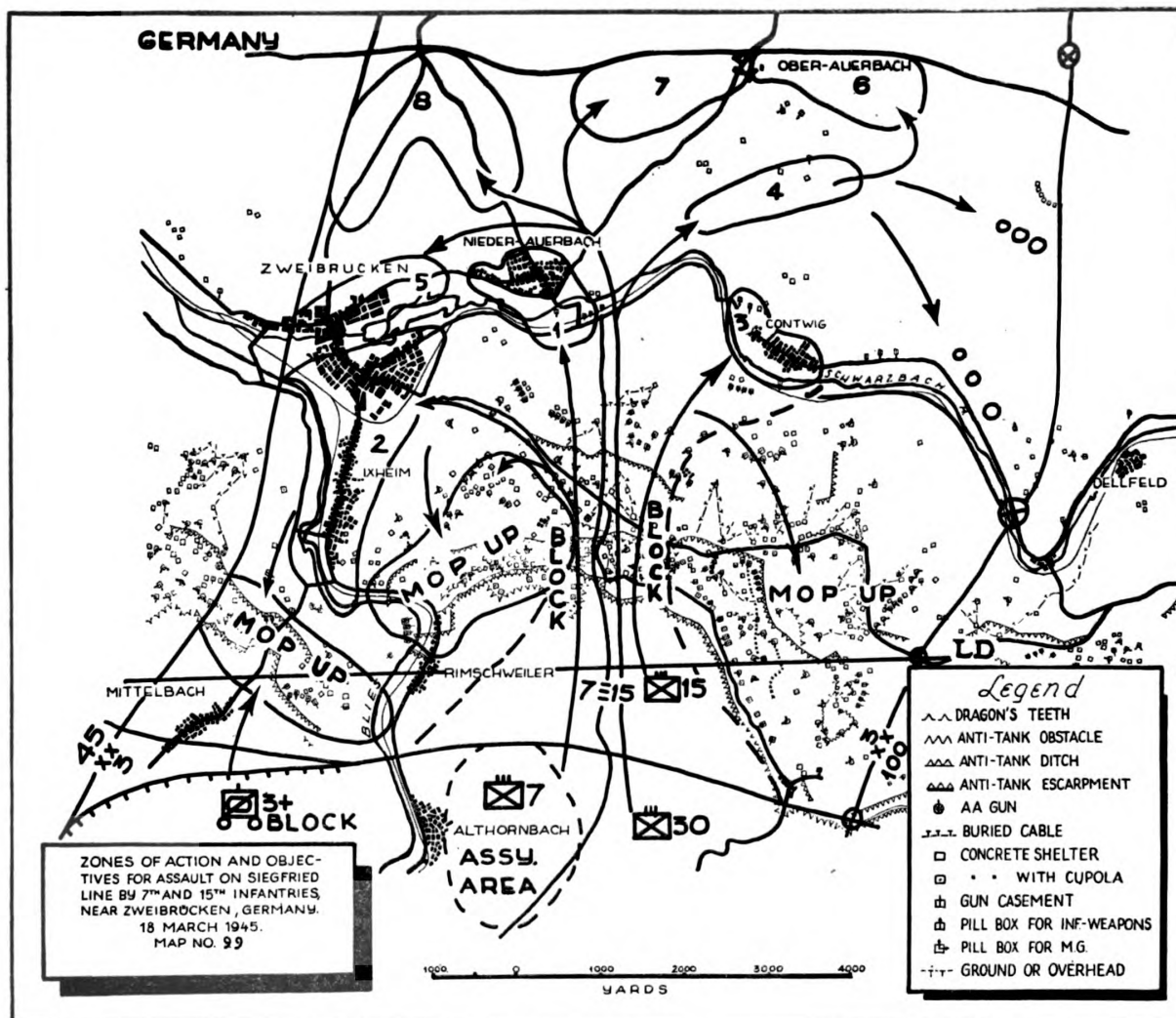
When informed of the orders from Third Division Headquarters Colonel Heintges was surprised to receive them, as they necessitated a withdrawal of all forces of the Regiment from their tactical positions and an assembly of them in the vicinity of Alt-Hornbach during the night, then an attack with them before daylight. Furthermore, in the short time allowed it was impossible even for the commander, himself, to make the vitally important study and reconnaissance of the new sector prior to the attack. The daylight hours of 17 March were rapidly slipping away. At the time the orders were received not a single map of the new area had come down from higher headquarters, which showed the Siegfried Line defenses in the new zone.

The attack on the Siegfried Line required the fullest co-operation from supporting engineers, who in the short time allowed were unable to make all necessary preparations and study, which probably was the reason for their failure to properly "blow" the "Dragon Teeth"

during the operation. As all roads in the area were mined and bridges blown, engineers had to busy themselves in clearing the routes of communication and supply. It was a most difficult task to assemble the entire Regiment in the vicinity of Alt-Hornbach in the time allowed.

Never before in World War II had the Seventh Infantry been called on to make a major attack with such little preparation and study. In less than twelve hours the "Cotton Baler" Regiment was called on to disengage itself, though it is true it was not heavily engaged at the time, to shift to the east and assemble, then go into the attack on the mighty Siegfried Line itself, the vaunted German Westwall, which the high command from the United States Chief of Staff down to army commanders had been studying for years.

Despite the great demands made upon the Regiment, Colonel Heintges, with full confidence that the "Cotton Balers" could carry out the difficult mission, issued the necessary orders to his subordinate commanders. Of the battalions, the Second moved first at 1930. At 0300 on 18 March the entire Regimental Combat Team had closed into areas around Alt-Hornbach. While the troops were moving Colonel Heintges and his entire staff were unusually busy formulating plans. Major General O'Daniel ordered the 15th Infantry to attack on the right of the Seventh Infantry. Once again the



30th Infantry was to be held in reserve. No finer tribute could the commanding general have paid to the fighting qualities of the "7th Light Foot" than to select it for this assault against Germany's vaunted Westwall, which ran from Switzerland to the North Sea.

Plans of attack called for the two rifle regiments to assault in columns of battalions. The 15th on the right planned to hit the line with its First, Second and Third Battalions in order while Colonel Heintges decided his order of battalions would be the First, Third and the Second, which was partially recovered from the Utweiler events.

Lieutenant Colonel Wallace's troops were given the tough assignment of making the "Cotton Baler" assault to penetrate the Siegfried Line, northeast of Rimschweiler, where it was most dense, and seize Objective 1, Nieder-Auerbach. Major Flynn's battalion was to follow the First Battalion, turn left and seize Objective 2, the southern half of Zweibrücken. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion, upon seizure of Objective 2 by the Third Battalion, and on order of the Regimental Commander was to block to the west and southwest and assist in mopping up.

Anti-Tank Company attached one "bazooka" platoon to each the First and Third Battalions, then assembled the remainder of the Company in Alt-Hornbach in Regimental reserve.

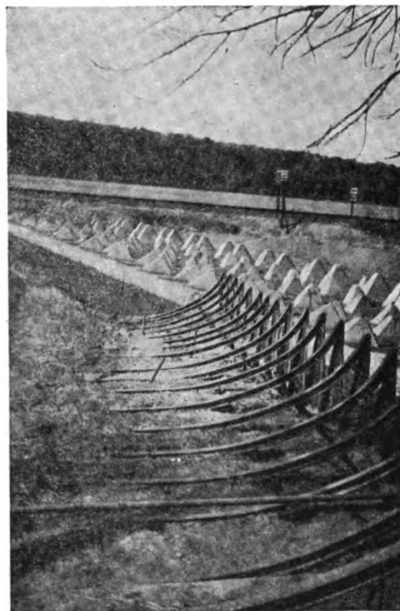
Company "A" of the 10th Engineer Battalion attached one combat platoon to the First and Third Battalions and held a third with the Regimental reserve.

The Third Reconnaissance Troop and Division Battle Patrol with the platoon of light tanks of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, protected the Regimental left front and flank by blocking action.

The Third Infantry Division Artillery was to fire harassing, counter-battery, and destructive fires from 0300 to H-60, then, from H-28 to H-Hour, fire heavy preparation fires in the zone of advance. The 10th Field Artillery Battalion and one battery of four M-12, 155mm assault guns for reduction of pill-boxes, were to be in direct support of the Regiment.

Maps of the area were finally received. Study of the Siegfried Line defenses showed that the Seventh Infantry faced the strongest section of the Siegfried Line in the Third Division area. Whereas the fortifications facing the flank units consisted of two rows of "Dragon's Teeth" with three rows of pill-boxes between, the defenses facing the Seventh Regiment comprised three rows of "Dragon's Teeth", with intervening pill-boxes spaced in great depth. The assault battalion had to penetrate a row of "Dragon's Teeth", movable blocks and concrete shelters with cupolas northeast of Rimschweiler before hitting a main dense line of "Dragon's Teeth" backed up by an anti-tank ditch. Another line of "Dragon's Teeth" followed the main line and in between the various lines were numerous obstacles consisting of concrete shelters, casements and overhead cables. Pill-boxes with automatic weapons were scattered everywhere and gun emplacements, both fixed and mobile, for heavy calibre weapons were placed throughout the area. Casements in the Zweibrücken defenses were of the "B-Werk" type—massive steel and concrete structures with two turrets, each of which was armed with two machine guns. The "Dragon's Teeth" were concrete tetrahedrons, four feet high and six feet apart. Areas between the "Dragon's Teeth" and the most advanced enemy command posts were obstructed by concertina barbed wire obstacles reinforced with spiral irons sunk into concrete casings. Accessible terrain in front of the "Dragon's Teeth", such as depressions, was

covered by the dreaded "S"-mines. Barbed wire between pill-boxes was strung in an ingenious fashion, covering every route of approach, with openings to lure the inexperienced soldier into death traps. Trip wires were laid in and around concertina obstacles. Leaders wondered how heavily manned the defenses would be. It was hoped lightly, but irregardless of how numerous were the defenders the Seventh Infantry planned to strike with all the power and determination possible.



A view of the "Dragon Teeth" and obstacles of the Siegfried Line.

Patrols probed the enemy defenses and brought back the information that the enemy had observation posts manned by three or four soldiers each along the line. Some pill-boxes had been located when the doors were opened and light shone out. The "Dragon Teeth" were covered with wire and mines and were defended by open trenches.

At 0300 the artillery opened its harassing fire. At 0310 the Seventh Infantry Commander reported to Division Headquarters by phone that his "Cotton Balers" were ready to assault, and simply waited for the appointed hour. The troops moved for the line of departure. Veteran "Cotton Balers"; there were a few left, noticed nothing unusual to the approach to the jump-off line that night but they experienced a different feeling perhaps. Moving up in the darkness of the night, as the big guns spit red and roared out their thunder, was nothing new to them. They had done it more times than air pilots had flown missions.

During the previous dark nights they had gone to the line of departure on the oceans in small boats to assault hostile shores, they had moved up to assault across defended river lines, to attack so-called impregnable mountain fortresses, to lunge across flat lands covered by murderous fire, to attack old medieval forts, or to strike at the enemy in dense forests. But this was something new. They were to hit the Westwall, or the Siegfried Line, which the Germans repeatedly had said was impregnable, impossible to breach.

At 0545 as the artillery lifted and jumped 500 yards farther into the "Fatherland", the "Cotton Balers" of the First Battalion jumped off in the attack. The artillery completed its initial preparations at 0605, then fired smoke and intense screening missions on the flanks of the penetration that the First Battalion troops made.

A major effort had been made by B-26 medium bombers of the 1st Tactical Airforce (Prov.) in preparation of the Third Infantry Division's attack on the Siegfried Line near Zweibrücken. The United States 42nd Bomb Wing and the Second Brigade de Bombardement (French Air Force) B-26 Marauder made attacks on 15-16 March against the Siegfried Defense Line in the sector being attacked by the Seventh Infantry on the 18th. The 368th A/C had dropped 5009 bombs



1 Lt. Paul J. Delaney, Jr., 1 Bn. Hq. Co., and 1 Lt. Ernest K. Guard, A. T. Co., were two of 19 "Cotton Balers" killed in action in the Siegfried Line on 18 March 1945.

with a total weight of 628,075 tons consisting of 1164 x 100, 313 x 250 and 714 x 500 pound bombs. The 141st A/C had dropped 246.75 tons of bombs. No noticeable effect had been made however by these bombings on the pill-boxes or "Dragon Teeth" in the Seventh Infantry sector, but as the bombing continued it had great morale value to the troops.

Fortunately the enemy defenses were not fully manned but there were enough enemy on hand to render stiff resistance to the "Cotton Balers."

The First Battalion moved rapidly, as the attached "Friscan" battalion screened the line of departure and rendered support with its 81mm mortar sections. Com-

pany "A", the left assault element of the First Battalion, advanced across 800 yards of open terrain, by-passed several silent pill-boxes to the right and penetrated three belts of the "Dragon's Teeth", crossed the anti-tank ditch and reached a zig-zag trench in the vicinity of the Muhlthaderof Ferme at 0630. There the foremost company halted fifty yards from the crest of a hill and waited for Company "B" and the First Battalion Observation Post group, trailing behind, to catch up. As the OP group and "Baker" Company drew abreast of the pill-box installations previously by-passed by "Able" Company they came under the fire of six enemy machine guns firing from the positions. The fire was so intense and covered the intervening ground so thoroughly that some of the troops were unable to reach the cover of a trench running parallel to the row of "Dragon's Teeth". Private First Class Frank J. Colombo, of First Battalion Headquarters Company, jumped out of the trench drawing the enemy fire. While he engaged the hostile forces with his rifle at fifty yards range, his companions were able to reach positions of cover. Then, when five Germans moving down a connecting trench, approached the Americans he advanced to within thirty yards of them and fired two rifle grenades, killing one hostile soldier, wounding another, and forcing the others to withdraw.¹⁹

Company "C", the right assault element of the First Battalion, advanced but had to take cover into zig-zag communication trenches, because of devastating machine gun fire issuing from pillbox strong points located on the reverse slope of a small knoll.

The First Battalion forces then became subjected to devastating fire of all types, including extremely heavy concentrations of "88" and artillery fire. Company "B" was the target of withering cross-fire from machine guns and snipers emplaced in pill-boxes on both left and right fronts and distances ranging from 50 to 150 yards. Enemy mortar fire inflicted several casualties on Company "A". All movement immediately drew sheaves of machine gun fire from pill-boxes to the front and both flanks. The engineers did not blow the "Dragon Teeth". Due to the heavy fire deluging the area, they did not properly lay their charges and the resulting explosions failed to accomplish the desired result. Attached armor of the First Battalion could not function and reach the troops they were supposed to support. Communication did not exist between the assault companies of the First Battalion, "A" and "C", and Lieutenant Colonel Wallace and Company "B".

About half an hour after the First Battalion Observation Post group and Company "B" reached the trench, engineers made their way to the area and braved intense fire in order to blow apart several of the "Dragon's Teeth", enabling a friendly destroyer of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion to move up and fire into the nearest pill-box. Shortly thereafter, a second tank destroyer arrived and screened the movement of Second Lieutenant Will P. Barbour, Jr., a platoon leader of Company "B", and a squad of his men to attack another pill-box. Hurling smoke grenades into the pill-box, the platoon forced 33 Germans to emerge in surrender. As Second Lieutenant Barbour attempted to check the vicinity for the presence of other enemy, he was shot and killed by snipers. The capture of this bunker enabled the battalion commander to set up a relatively safe observation post

¹⁹ GOs No. 177, 299, 316 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 May, 15 Aug., 1 & 25 Sept. '45. Pfc Kovatch was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt Toney, T/5 Benda, Pfc Colombo & Elchlinger were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and to re-establish contact between Company "B" and the assault units of the battalion, several hundred yards ahead.

All the companies of the First Battalion continued to receive intensive concentrations of mortar fire during daylight hours of 18 March in what was an evident



1 Lt. George J. Kyte, Jr., a forward observer from the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, was killed in action 18 March 1945 while with the forward elements of the 7th Infantry.

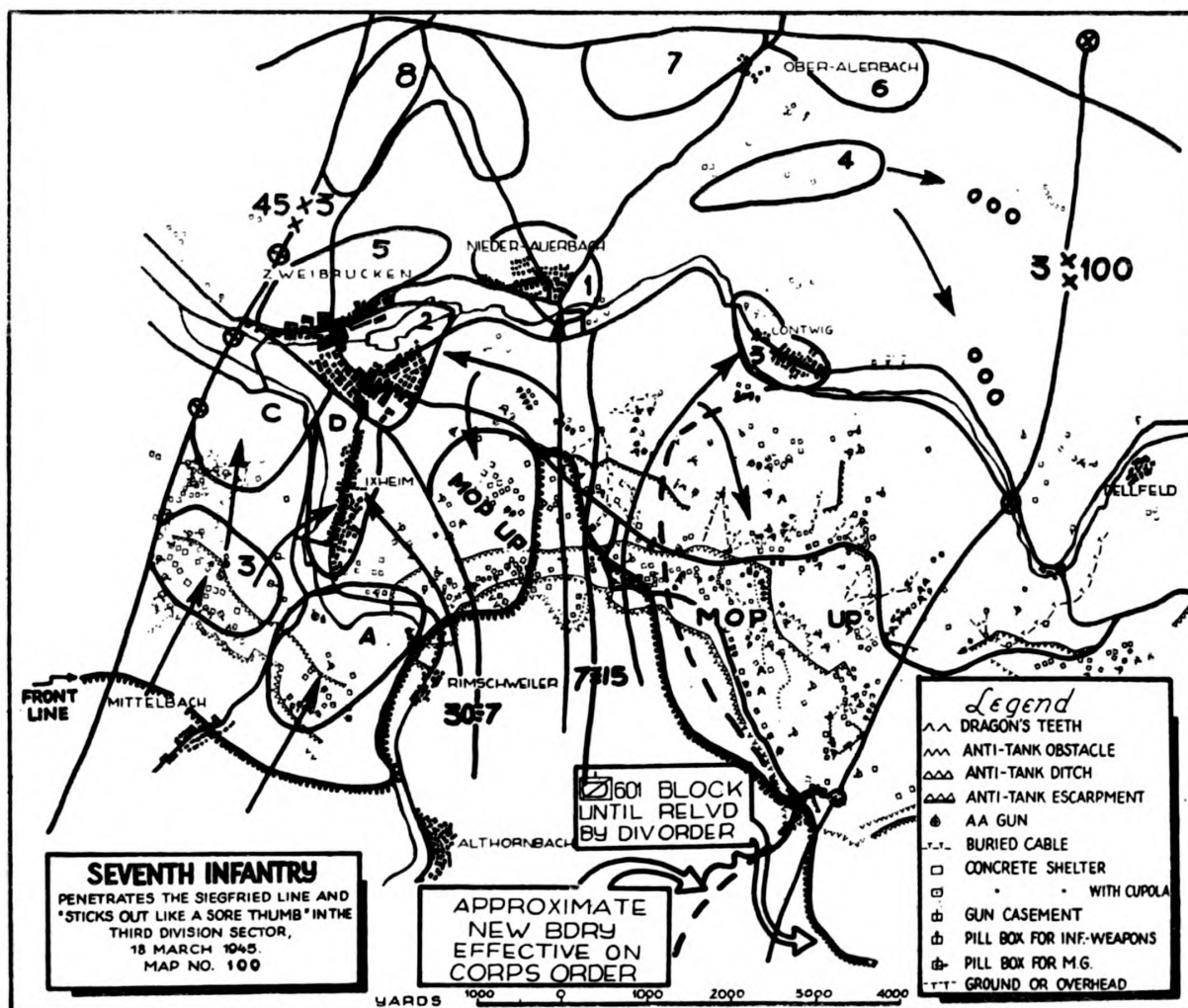
attempt by the Germans to drive them from their positions. Privates First Class John Elchlinger and Merle S. Kovatch, both wounded in action, and Technician Fifth

Grade Douglas P. Benda, all of Company "B" and First Lieutenant Malcolm B. Toney, First Battalion S-2, distinguished themselves during the action.¹⁹

The Third Battalion moved from the line of departure at 0700 on 18 March to follow in the wake of the First Battalion. No sooner had the leading elements of the Blue Battalion cleared the woods in which it had assembled then the enemy laid down an artillery concentration on the troops and wounded fourteen members of the battalion. When forward elements of Company "I", the lead company, were approximately 100 yards from the first row of "Dragon's Teeth", they were halted to await engineers coming up to blow a gap in the line. It took two hours for the engineers to arrive, during which time four members of the company were killed and eight others wounded by the mortar and artillery fire.

At about 0930 Company "I" moved forward with supporting armor, under continued enemy shell fire. Heavy artillery and direct "88" fire halted the friendly armor. Nevertheless, the company kept advancing until it reached two empty pill-boxes, where it was subjected to machine gun and sniper fire from by-passed positions to the rear, and was forced to hold up its forward movement.

After an all-day battle in the Siegfried Line, and as darkness fell, the enemy launched a series of slashing



counter-attacks against the narrow corridor blasted out by the rifle companies of the Regiment. At about 1900 hours, a re-inforced company of Germans struck at the First Battalion with Company "A" receiving the brunt of the blow. Enemy soldiers gained the trench occupied by the company and assaulted with point-blank small arms and hand grenade fire. Many members of Company "A" were wounded and seven were overrun and captured.

When his light machine gun crews abandoned their weapons in the face of the furious counter-attacks, Staff Sergeant Albert E. Haskell of Company "A" fought off the enemy at 35 yards range, ignoring bullets that killed a companion and missed him by inches. He burned out three M-1 rifles to hold the enemy at bay and then fought with hand grenades to kill 10 and wound 25 Germans. He remained at his post, despite a grave and painful wound, until the enemy was decisively beaten. For his extraordinary heroism Staff Sergeant Haskell was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²⁰

Private Jesse Jewell of Company "A", who was twice wounded in the ensuing action, but killed three Germans in a fire duel, and Private First Class David P. Jackson of Company "D" gallantly fought to stem the counter-attacks. For the Third Battalion, Sergeant Fred G. Anderson and Private First Class Sylvester Klish, both of Company "L" and both wounded during the action, gallantly fought the enemy. Technician Fifth Grade Arthur M. Sloan, Private First Class Joe A. Chewiwi and Private Dan N. Salley, all of the Medical Detachment, distinguished themselves during the action.²¹

Company "A" hurled the enemy back and out of the trench. Even the wounded, such as Private First Class Edward T. Winiarski, played a role in repulsing the attack. In spite of a bullet wound in his right arm suffered earlier in the day, he fired his carbine with his left hand. Later that night Company "A" was withdrawn to another trench about 100 yards to the rear to permit friendly artillery fire to pound the area. This shelling broke up what appeared to be another counter-attack, and before daybreak, the company returned to its former position.

During the morning hours of darkness on 18 March the attached Company "G" of the 30th Infantry entered Rimschweiler against light opposition and mine-sweeping engineers swept the road from Althornbach to Rimschweiler, but during the day enemy snipers prevented use of the road. Enemy self-propelled guns fired on the engineer bull-dozers and subjected the Regimental Command Post in Althornbach to severe poundings during the day. One direct hit on the Command Post building during the afternoon caused eight casualties. Private First Class Elisee A. Dutil of Regimental Headquarters Company, a veteran formerly of Company "K", was killed. He had joined the Regiment on 28 February 1943 in North Africa. As a leader of a "bazooka" squad in Sicily, South Italy, and on the Anzio Beachhead he had performed distinguished service. Though never officially decorated for bravery many there were who could testify to his gallant conduct. Twice he had been wounded during the early campaigns of the Regiment. Private First Class Salvatore J. Amato had a leg shot off by the same shell which killed Private First Class Dutil. Private First Class Frank G. Pirozzi of the S-3 section was severely wounded.

In the first day's fighting in the Siegfried Line besides those already mentioned, the First Battalion and Anti-Tank Company each lost a fine officer when First Lieutenants Paul J. Delaney, Jr., and Ernest K. Guard were killed. Sergeant Urbano DiPasquale, Privates First Class Lewis R. DeLong, Dewey W. Dixon, Privates Harold

Karns and Corwin J. Smith, all of "Able" Company, gave their lives battling the enemy. Privates First Class Melford M. Horton, Harry R. Thorpe, Jr., Private Howard J. Higdon, all of "Charlie" Company; Private First Class William E. Rose of "Dog" Company, and Private Frank Worden, Jr., of First Battalion Headquarters Company were killed by the enemy gunners. Five Third Battalion men lost their lives, namely, Technician Fifth Grade Raymond E. Principe, Technician Fifth Grade William A. Rolke, Private First Class Bruce F. Stutchbury and Private Woodrow Campbell of "King" Company, and Private John F. Fink of "Item" Company. Three forward artillery observers of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion were lost from the fight when First Lieutenant George J. Kyte, Jr., was killed in the action and First Lieutenant Casimir J. Kedzior and Second Lieutenant Chester V. Franklin were seriously wounded.

Private First Class Albert G. Cartier of Company "A" was so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds two days later. A total of sixty men were wounded in action and evacuated.

The work of the First Battalion during the early morning darkness and throughout the day was particularly outstanding and was another great accomplishment of the battalion during this war. Its forward position as plotted on the map was like a big finger pointed into the enemy's lines. By its powerful drive it enabled the Seventh Infantry to once again "stick out like a sore thumb" on the point of the Third Infantry Division's "embarrassing bulge".

As the right boundary of the Third Infantry Division was to undergo a change on XV Corps order and Major General John W. O'Daniel issued orders for the commitment of the 30th Infantry on the left, his headquarters issued instructions for the movements.²² The overlay which accompanied the instructions, besides showing the usual number of goose eggs for objectives, also showed the front line on the Third Division's front at the end of 18 March 1945 and is the official Army document which shows the forward positions of the Seventh Infantry on that date.

The instructions from the commanding general's headquarters ordered a continuance of the attack by the 7th and 15th Regiments while the 30th was to attack at 0530 on 19 March in a zone on the left, through the Third Reconnaissance Troop and Division Battle Patrol which were detached from Seventh Infantry control as well as the "Friscan" Second Battalion. The "Frisicans" were to seize objectives "A", "B", "C", "D", then be prepared to attack Objectives 2 and 5 and assist the Seventh Infantry.

The matter of support for the riflemen became acute as the supplies ran low and the task of making passage-ways for the armor was exceedingly difficult. One tank became stuck in the first row of "Dragon Teeth", another tank and a bulldozer ran out of gasoline, while the enemy kept pouring in deadly fire. A task force consisting of Company "I" with a bulldozer, two retrievers and engineers, attached to both the First and Third Battalions, moved during the night of 18-19 March to effect the passage for the armor and vehicles, with rations

²⁰ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

²¹ GOs No. 175, 182, 256, 262, 264, 299 & 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 28 May, 15, 18 & 19 July, 15 Aug. & 25 Sept. '45. Sgt. Anderson, T/5 Sloan, Pfc Chewiwi, Jackson & Klish. Pvts. Jewell & Salley were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²² Operations Instruction No. 30, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Brenschelbach, Germany, 18 Mar. '45.

and supply for the First Battalion. The enemy counter-attacked the task force but "Item" Company repulsed the enemy. Enemy-manned pillboxes to the right and left of the line of advance hampered the operation but at 0315 the task force reached Company "B" at the second row of "Dragon Teeth" and delivered the supplies.

In the morning an increased amount of enemy artillery was received. The supporting Air Corps carried out numerous bombing missions in front of the troops and the battle to destroy the enemy in the pill-boxes continued throughout the day.

When his platoon was halted by withering machine gun fire from Siegfried Line defenses on 19 March, Private First Class Rumaldo Medina of Company "L" armed himself with hand grenades and dashed forward alone to knock out an enemy pill-box. Hit in the chest and knocked down, he continued crawling forward through machine gun and rifle fire and dropped two



Three of 15 "Cotton Balers" killed during the Siegfried Line action of 19 March 1945 were: (1) 2 Lt. Will P. Barbour, Jr., Co. "B"; (2) 2 Lt. Jefferson W. Davis, Co. "A", and (3) 1 Lt. Robert E. McDonnell, Co. "B".

grenades through a vent in the pill-box and destroyed its crew. His intrepid action enabled his platoon to resume the attack, seize an enemy-held trench, kill three and capture twelve Germans. Private First Class Rumaldo was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²³

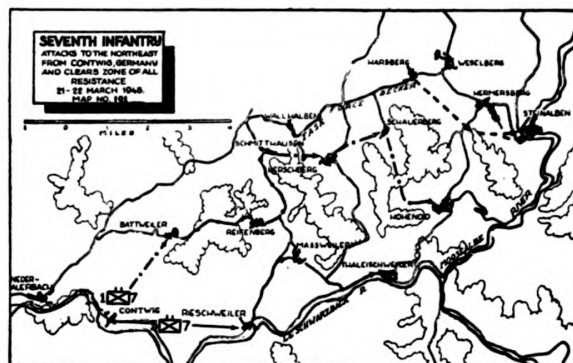
The First and Third Battalion forces fought throughout 19 March in the Siegfried Line defenses. Toward nightfall resistance began breaking. First Lieutenant Victor M. Morris, First Lieutenant William T. Wright, Second Lieutenant Frederick R. Drayton and Staff Sergeant George D. Moore, Jr., who was blinded in one eye by a mortar fragment, all of Company "C", were outstanding when their company repelled a counter-attack that day. Staff Sergeant Jesse B. Barnett of Company "B", Staff Sergeant Ralph M. Brown of First Battalion Headquarters Company, who was wounded in the action, Technician Fifth Grade Melvin H. Draben of Company "I", who was killed in the action, Staff Sergeant Robert A. Olson of Company "L" and Private First Class Kenneth L. Suman of Third Battalion Headquarters Company were a few whose actions were brave.²⁴

The zone of advance was cleared during the night of 19-20 March as the Third Battalion cleaned out six enemy pill-boxes and more supplies got through to the First Battalion. Between 50 and 60 of the seriously wounded were evacuated on half-tracks. In the early morning of the 20th the Regiment started taking prisoners. At 0820 the Blue forces had 21 prisoners of war and 10 conscripted Russians including four women. The Second Battalion mopping up behind the Third had 14 Germans in hand as prisoners. At 1050 the Siegfried Line was breached and the First and Third Battalions were advancing to the north. A total of 66 enemy including one officer had been taken prisoners, besides numerous enemy were killed. A task force consisting

of Company "E" and tank destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion contacted elements of the 30th Infantry northeast of Ixheim at 1100, then occupied Ixheim at 1305. The Red Battalion drove on to seize the southeastern section of Zweibrücken while the Third Battalion drove on to Nieder-Auerbach. The enemy was making a general withdrawal to the northeast.²⁵

The 30th Infantry on the left and the 15th on the right also advanced that day and the entire Siegfried Line in the Third Division sector had been breached. Then with the tough assignment completed, the Sixth Armored Division, unmolested, passed through the line held by the Third Infantry Division troops, to pursue the fleeing Germans. By courtesy of the regular Infantry in removing the obstacles the tanks of the Armored Infantry rolled again.

The First Battalion assembled in battered, totally destroyed Zweibrücken. The Third Battalion left Company "K" in Nieder-Auerbach then assembled the remainder of its troops in Rimschweiler at 1940, while the Second Battalion was assembled in Althornbach at 1830 on 20 March. During the early morning of 21 March a small force of riflemen were sent to the 30th Infantry sector to clean out enemy snipers who harassed the communication and supply route into Zweibrücken.



The Third Infantry Division had not been the only division of the American Seventh Army to penetrate the Siegfried Line. On the immediate left the "Thunderbirds" broke through, while farther to the left the 63rd Infantry Division, spearheaded by the 101st Cavalry Group, made a penetration. Saarbrücken, the principal city of the Saar Basin, was taken on the 20th by the 70th Infantry Division.

The American Third Army had combined with the Seventh Army to reduce the Rhine-Moselle-Saar pocket to one-third its original size. Against little resistance the 4th Armored Division reached Mainz also on the Rhine. The 80th Infantry Division and the 10th Armored Division fought their way into Kaiserslautern.

General Eisenhower's Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces (ShaeF) announced by bulletin early 21 March that the 6th Armored Division of the

²³ For authority see GO No. 625, HQ, 7th Army, W.M.D., 22 Oct. '45.

²⁴ GOs No. 177, 208, 226, 227, 235, 299 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 May, 12, 24, 25 & 29 June, 15 Aug. & 17 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Drayton was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. Morris, 1 Lt. Wright, S/Sgt. Moore, Brown & Olson, Sgt. Barnett, T/5 Draben (posthumously) & Pfc Suman were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

²⁵ For leading the 3d Div. into Germany and its superlative work in the Siegfried Line the 7th Inf. was recommended for a Presidential Unit citation.

Seventh Army, which had passed through the Siegfried Line by courtesy of the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry Divisions, had made contact on the 20th with the 26th Infantry, or "Yankee", Division of the Third Army, about twelve miles west of Kaiserslautern. The two armies were linked up. The American First Army farther north held a twenty-five mile strip on the east bank of the Rhine.

NEW PLANS

Due to the rapid developments taking place with the enemy withdrawing to the east as rapidly as possible, leaving only delaying forces and scattered sniper resistance behind, the 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions underwent a shift to the east.

For the Third Infantry Division, the 7th and 15th Infantry Divisions were to attack to the east and northeast and block on the Corps boundary line while the 30th Infantry was to follow the 6th Armored Division toward Kaiserslautern. The Cavalry's 106th Reconnaissance Squadron was to conduct screening operations.

7th INFANTRY ATTACKS TO NORTHEAST AND CLEARS ZONE OF ALL RESISTANCE 21-22 MARCH 1945

The Seventh Infantry moved its troops from Zweibrücken, Rimschweiler, Nieder-Auerbach and Althornbach to assembly areas in the vicinity of Contwig, Germany, late in the afternoon of 21 March 1945.

At 2100 the First and Third Battalions attacked to the northeast against little resistance. Then at 2350 Task Force Becker was sent to the front to seize the Steinalben bridges.

Without firing a shot the First Battalion (reinforced) cleared the six towns of Battweiler, Reifenberg, Schmittshausen, Herschberg, Schauerberg and Hobeinod, and assembled in the latter town during the morning. Over 100 prisoners of war were captured.

The Third Battalion in the right half of the Regimental zone cleared Rieschweiler and Massweiler without trouble but ran into resistance in Thaleischweiler where Companies "K" and "L" engaged enemy in a stiff fight.

At about 0500 hours on 22 March near Thaleischweiler, when his patrol was halted by a road block, Sergeant Anthony J. Balbaton, of Company "K", exposed himself to enemy automatic and sniper fire to knock out a 75mm anti-tank gun at ten yards range with rifle-launched grenades. Wounded in the cheek, he walked past the road-block through bullets fired from enemy-occupied houses. He fired his light machine gun into the windows, killed three, and captured three of the enemy. His assault shattered the German defensive position, secured an important road net and disintegrated enemy resistance in the town. Sergeant Balbaton was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.²⁶

The Third Battalion captured fifty prisoners of war in the town, two anti-tank guns and one flakwagon. The battalion then blocked to the east and remained assembled in Thaleischweiler.

Task Force Becker, commanded by First Lieutenant Albert V. Becker, Jr., of Second Battalion Headquarters, consisted of one "bazooka" platoon from Anti-Tank Company, a reinforced rifle platoon from the Second Battalion, two demolition men from Company "A", 10th Engineers, and two radio operators from Cannon

Company. Mounted on vehicles the task force moved tactically with great speed at 23-50 that night through Battweiler, Schmittshausen, Wallhalben and Saalstadt to Harsberg where contact was made with the 106th Cavalry Group. From Harsberg the Task Force moved on foot on an azimuth of 131 degrees to a point southwest of Hermersberg and then changed its course on to an azimuth of 116 degrees to reach Steinalben where the bridges over the Mooselbe River were seized intact. The enemy demolitions were removed and a guard established at 0600. A brief skirmish was held with two enemy being killed and eight captured.

The Second Battalion followed the lead battalions in reserve to Massweiler. Anti-Tank, Cannon, Regimental Headquarters and Service Companies displaced forward. Anti-Tank and Cannon Companies picked up scattered enemy to swell the Regiment's total to about 200 for the operation. About 100 displaced persons of Russian, Polish, French and Italian extraction were liberated and evacuated. The Second Battalion went into Division reserve and moved to the vicinity of Weselberg.

7th INFANTRY MOTOR MARCHES TO VICINITY OF FRANKENTHAL, GERMANY. 23-25 MARCH 1945

As practically all resistance west of the Rhine had ended and the armor and cavalry units had a field day dashing here and there, the Infantry moved up to the next barrier, the Rhine River, and made preparations to assault it, so that engineers could then bridge it and the armor would then roll again.

The Seventh Infantry (reinforced) was ordered to march by motor to an assembly area east of Frankenstein. Accordingly the movement was started early 23 March by the Second Battalion, Anti-Tank Company, Company "A", 10th Engineers, and the platoon of light tanks belonging to Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, which units constituted the first serial. The initial point for the movement was established in Hermersberg and the troops passed through Schopp, and Kaiserslautern.

While the movement was underway order was received from higher headquarters to assemble in the vicinity of Carlsberg to the northeast of the original area, and near the Reichsautobahn.

It was impossible at that time to notify the first serial which had turned east from Kaiserslautern, passed through Hochspeyer and Frankenstein to the wooded area. The other three serials made up of the remainder of the Regiment, 10th Field Artillery Battalion, 202nd Field Artillery Battalion (M-1 Howitzers), Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, were notified in time to move through Kaiserslautern and onto the Reichsautobahn, then they proceeded northeast to the new area near Carlsberg.

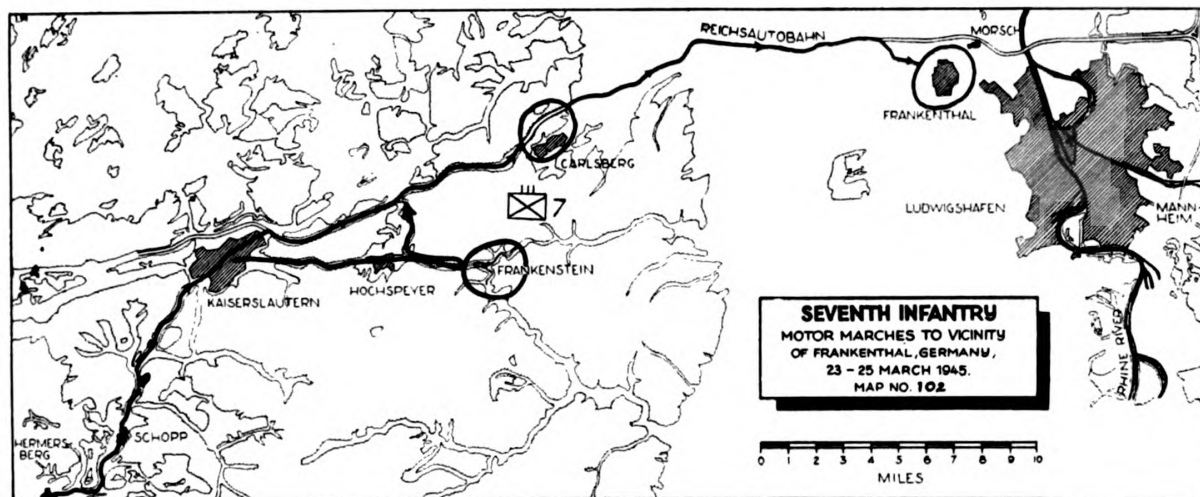
Units of the first serial were then notified of the change in area and moved a second time. When they closed in at 2030 the entire Regimental Combat Team was bivouaced around Carlsberg.

During the moves the Regimental Battle Patrol conducted screening operations between the routes of advance and the Division right boundary. Seventy-three prisoners of war were picked up.

²⁶ For authority see GO No. 192, HQ, 7th Army, 16 May '45.

The 24th was spent in attending religious services, the care and cleaning of equipment. Sixty-three more prisoners of war were gathered up. The Commanding Officer and his staff worked on plans for crossing the Rhine River.

The night of 24-25 March the Regimental Combat Team made another motor march along the Reichsautobahn to the vicinity of Frankenthal where during darkness the units assembled. The Command Post moved on to Morsch.



CHAPTER III

The Rhine River Crossing and Drive to the East

The enemy, in the XV Corps zone and on the entire Seventh Army front, had made a disorganized withdrawal of his forces from the Siegfried Line across the Rhine River. Elements of twenty-one enemy divisions and numerous miscellaneous units had been encountered by the Corps in its advance to the Rhine and it was expected that only hastily reorganized remnants of those units would be available to oppose a crossing of the river south of Mainz. The Seventh Army pushed plans to complete destruction of the enemy in its zone, to cross the mighty Rhine and establish a bridgehead in preparation for a subsequent advance to the northeast.

The XV Corps of the Seventh Army planned to make a main effort in the direction of Molsheim-Bensheim and force a crossing of the Rhine River in a zone between a point on the north suburbs of Mannheim north to Gimbshheim. The two large patches of woods, namely Lorsch Wald and Jagersburger Wald, were to be captured and the attack continued to seize the high ground of Bensheim-Reichenbach-Eberstadt-Grumstadt, prepared to extend the bridgehead or exploit to the north or northeast on Army order. The XXI Corps on the right was to continue its mission of mopping up before the Rhine. On the left, XII Corps, having already forced a successful crossing of the Rhine with strong forces was to continue action to enlarge its bridgehead and exploit.²⁷

The XV Corps consisted of the 3rd, 44th, 45th, 63rd, and 100th Infantry Divisions and the 106th Cavalry Group. It planned to force the Rhine in its zone with its two old reliables, the experienced 3rd and 45th Infantry Divisions. The other three Infantry Divisions, the 44th, 63rd and 100th, were to cross behind the two assault divisions, on Corps order and then attack in

conjunction with the assault divisions. The 106th Cavalry Group was to constitute Corps reserve in the vicinity of Gimbshheim and make a feint of crossing the river. The Third Infantry Division was assigned the mission of forcing a crossing between Mannheim and Worms while the 45th Infantry Division was assigned the area on the north between Worms and Gimbshheim.

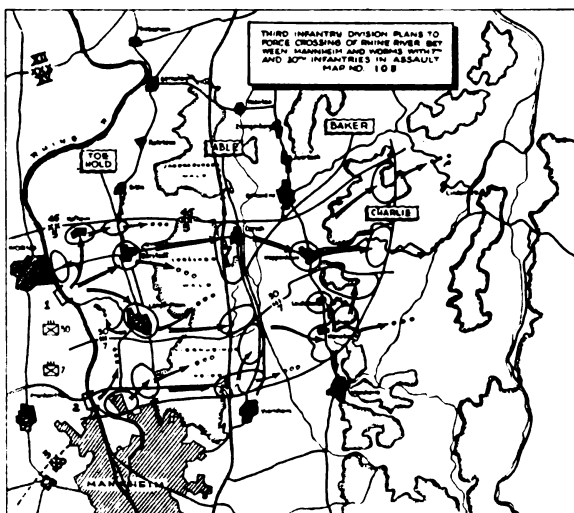
The operations of the Third Infantry Division were to be supported by the XV Corps Artillery and Anti-Aircraft Artillery. The 1109th Engineer Combat Group was to support the action with its main effort concentrated on building a treadway bridge over the Rhine in the zone of the Seventh Infantry, which was to be in assault, as usual, on the right flank. Battery "B", 353rd Search-Light Battalion, was also to support the action with "artificial moonlight" on call. The XII Tactical Air Command was to be in support. Included in the planned air support for the operation would be the blocking of approaches to the south flank of the zone of action by a strong medium bomber effort.

Assault plans of the "Rock of the Marne" Division called for the 7th and 30th Infantries to force the Rhine on the XV Corps right, in Areas No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. Following rapid coordination on the far bank they were to continue the advance with "utmost speed and violence", seize Line "TOE HOLD", capture the objectives indicated, and clear the zone to Phase Line "ABLE". The assaulting regiments were to contact each other at Contact Points No. 3 and No. 4 with all possible

²⁷ Field Order No. 3, "Operation Rhineland", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Alt-Leiningen, Germany, 24 Mar. '45.

speed. The Seventh Infantry was to maintain strong blocks and aggressive patrols on the right, or south flank, toward Mannheim, while the 30th Infantry was to maintain light blocks on the north and contact the 45th Infantry Division. On order the two regimental combat teams were to advance rapidly and seize objectives on Phase Line "CHARLIE". The line of departure for the operation was the west bank of the Rhine River.

The 15th Infantry, having assaulted the Siegfried Line with the Seventh Infantry, was for the Rhine crossing operation to constitute division reserve. The "Dragon" Regiment and attachments were to assemble in the Bobenheim area prepared to cross the Rhine River at either Area No. 1 or No. 2 and assembled in the vicinity of Lampertheim. On division order it was to be prepared to assume the mission of either assault combat team. As the vulnerable flank was to be that on the south where the Seventh Infantry was to be exposed, the 15th Infantry was ordered to be ready to assist in blocking on the south and if necessary to counter-attack. There was danger that armor might attack north out of Mannheim.



The Third Infantry Division Artillery had attached the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, the 250th Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzers), the 693rd Field Artillery Battalion (105mm Howitzers) and four battalions of the 44th Infantry Division Artillery. This amount of artillery was to support the Third Division crossings by a half-hour, pre H-Hour preparation and coordinated with reinforced and counter-battery fires of the supporting XV Corps Artillery. The commanding general of the Third Infantry Division Artillery was directed to prepare and fire on call defensive fires on the division right or vulnerable south flank. A night harassing and interdiction program was to be carried out. A minimum of two liaison aircraft were to be maintained in the air during daylight hours, except during pozit periods, and were to submit hourly reports of observation. Organic, direct support battalions were to be loaded on Dukws and closed into an assembly area by H-Hour, D-Day, prepared for crossing. DD Tanks (Direct Drive or floating tanks) of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, were assigned to each assault regiment.

In final instructions for the operation the Third Division commander emphasized that:

The success of the operation depends upon speed and aggressive action. Commanders will imbue all men with a driving, offensive spirit that will overwhelm all opposition. Utmost care will be taken to prevent disclosure of crossing sites. Commanders are reminded of verbal orders of the Commanding General in reference to size and conduct of reconnaissance parties in forward areas. All combat vehicles will display cerise or orange panels east of the Rhine River. Assault units will be prepared to mark the front lines with yellow smoke or panels on order or on call from the air. The railroad line, Line "Toe-Hold", affords an excellent coordinating line as well as protection against armored attack. Assault elements will drive for this line with all possible speed following initial coordination.

In the event of hostile armored attack, intense artillery fires must be called down on the hostile armor as soon as it is discovered. These fires must be kept on the armor until it is destroyed or driven off. Bazooka teams must be alert and aggressive in repulsing enemy armor, and will strive to take the offensive against it at every opportunity. Assault Infantry will carry anti-tank mines for additional protection prior to arrival of our own armor and anti-tank guns. Assault Infantry will employ ropes and improvised slings to assist in unloading weapons on the far bank. Cargo nets furnished by the 540th Engineer Group will be used to the maximum to assist in embarking into boats and in scaling the far bank. Life preservers will be issued to all personnel prior to leaving the boat assembly areas, and dropped on the far bank as early as convenient. Assault combat teams will emplace tanks, tank destroyers, 57mm guns and flak wagons in direct fire positions along the west bank of the river, and will employ these weapons in conjunction with the artillery preparations, if called, or to fire on specific targets opposing the crossing.²⁸

A smoke plan was devised to provide screening cover and area haze in support of the Third Division operation. Units to provide the smoke were the 87th Chemical Battalion and the 69th Chemical Company (Smoke Generator). A near-shore smoke line was established by the smoke generator company within the regimental zones to furnish smoke on order of the division or assault regiments beginning at daylight, D-Day. Smoke pots were initially to be placed on the far shore smoke line and followed by M-2 generators.

The 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion was prepared to furnish 4.2 mortar smoke screens on the flanks. The Third Division Artillery was also prepared to fire smoke missions.

7th INFANTRY PLANS FOR OPERATION "RHINELAND"

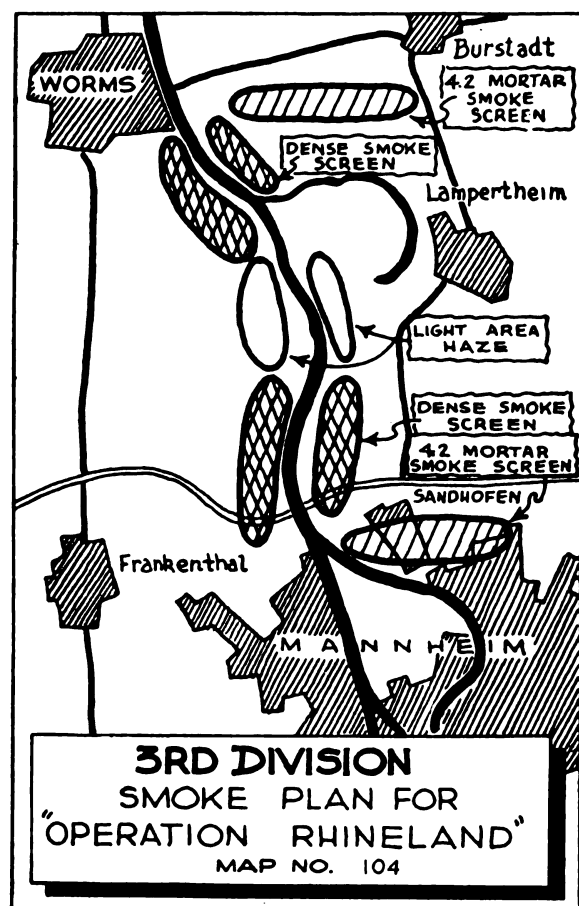
With the above orders of the commanding general, Colonel John A. Heintges and his staff formulated plans for the Seventh Infantry Regimental Combat Team to cover the operation. The old, tried and efficient supporters of the Regiment were to again support the rifle troops. They consisted of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, 10th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Medical Battalion and a Detachment of the 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion. An extra 4.2 mortar company, Company "B", was attached with Company "A" of the 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion. A detachment of DD tanks of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, and the Third Platoon of Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, with a detachment of the 3rd Signal Company completed the list of attachments.

The move of the Regimental Combat Team during the night of 24-25 March had been the first step in concentrating the troops in the forward assembly area in Frankenthal. During the day of 25 March "DUKWS" were delivered on the basis of one to each battalion and ten to Anti-Tank Company for loading purposes. Movement in the forward area was limited to reconnais-

²⁸ Ibid.

sance and engineer parties. Plans for the night of 25-26 March were for the engineers to commence concentrating boats, cables and rafting equipment on the near shore at dusk. The First and Third Battalions, named as the assault battalions, were to close into final assembly areas not later than H-30. H-Hour, D-Day, had been established as 0230 on 26 March 1945 by higher headquarters. The Second Battalion was to close into the Third Battalion area on order of the Regimental Commander.²⁹

All the tactical vehicles, armor, and flak wagons were to close into Assembly Area No. 3, at H-Hour. Close liaison was to be maintained with the Regimental transportation officer, for the purpose of coordinating the crossings with the engineers at the river crossing site. A ferry traffic control post was set up in Area 3. The vehicles, or "DUKWS", loading from near-shore firing positions after H-Hour were directed to clear through the traffic control post before loading on rafts. The assault battalions were to start their boat teams forward at close interval, two teams at a time, so as to start launchings at H-Hour. Engineer guides were ordered to meet the boat teams at the final assembly areas and guide them to the boat site. Such were the plans of the concentration program to actually precede the assault.



Colonel Heintges ordered the First and Third Battalions, with the First on the right, to cross the Rhine River at H-Hour, D-Day, by assault craft and seize their objectives with all possible speed.

The First Battalion was assigned the mission of seizing Objectives "A", "B", "C" and "D" which

included all of Sandhofen. Upon the capture of those objectives the First Battalion was then to seize Objectives "E" and "F" and block to the southeast and east to repel any enemy attempts to penetrate the division zone.

The Third Battalion was assigned the task of seizing Objectives "G" and "I" with one company each and to hold one company in reserve at "H". With that accomplished the Third Battalion was then to attack with two companies and reduce Objectives "J", "K", "L", "P", "R", "T", No. 1, "O", "Q", "S" and "U". That action was to be accompanied by a sweeping flank maneuver of one company to Objectives "M" and "N". Upon clearing the left zone of all enemy the Third Battalion was to place the weight of its forces along the Line "ABLE" with particular attention to blocking to the northeast and east, pending a further attack to the northeast.

The Second Battalion was to cross the Rhine River on order and closely follow the advance of the First Battalion. An initial advance was to be made to the dyke, running north and south about midway between the Rhine River and Sandhofen, as the First Battalion would be in the act of capturing Sandhofen. As the First Battalion advanced toward Objectives "E" and "F" the Second Battalion was then to occupy Sandhofen. Upon the capture of "E" and "F" by the First Battalion, the Second Battalion was to attack through the First, on order from the Regimental Commander, drive rapidly forward, seize and clear Objectives "V", "W", "X", "Y", "Z", "2" and "3". That action was to be accompanied by strong blocking and patrolling action along the key avenues of enemy approach from the south.

Cannon Company was to follow its usual mission of supporting the Regiment by fire from positions on the near shore and subsequently to displace forward by "DUKWS" to the far shore on order. Anti-Tank Company was initially to have all its guns and equipment, including "bazookas", loaded on "DUKWS" and to cross to the far shore on order prepared to assist the assault elements by anti-tank blocks or tank destroyer action.

Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, was to cross its allotment of seven DD tanks on order, to render direct support to the operation.

Companies "A", 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, were to assemble all the armor and vehicles in the vehicle assembly area prepared to dispatch platoons to the rifle battalions upon the establishment of rafting facilities.

The Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, initially in reserve, was to remain prepared to assist in the control of civilians, mopping up action or patrols as may be ordered.

The Detachment of 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion attached to the Regiment was to place six flak wagons in initial firing positions south of the Rhein Kanal and fire flank fires on order of the Regimental Commander. A fire plan for the flak wagons was scheduled to be fired from H-30 to H+50.

A 4.2 Chemical Mortar fire plan was also scheduled to be fired by Companies "A" and "B", 87th Chemical Mortar Battalion from H-30 to H+55 from positions on the near shore.

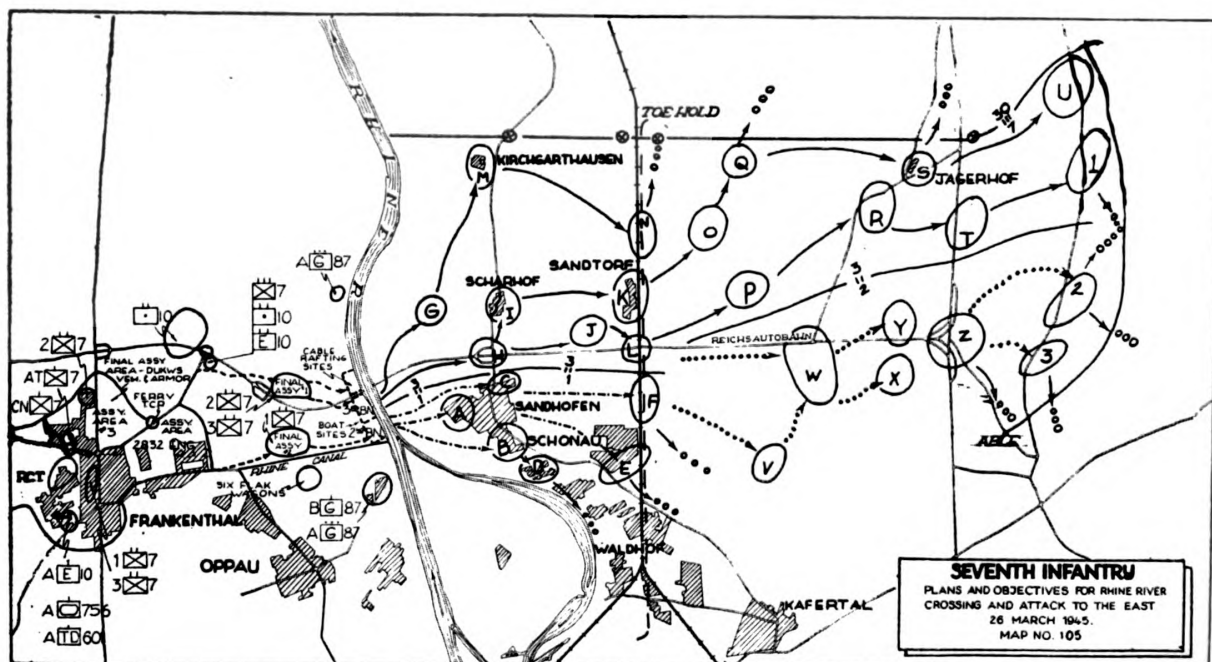
The 10th Field Artillery Battalion was to render normal support and on order displace across the river to continue support of the attack.

²⁹ Field Order No. 2, HQ, 7th Infantry, 25 Mar. '45.

as a billiard table." Two very important man-made structures however may be found in the area and they were to offer some cover and shelter during the operation that lay ahead. Frankenthal is connected with the Rhine River by the Rhein or Frankenthal Kanal. Along its banks are roads which could be used. The dominating feature on the flat land was the Reichsautobahn which was built to the river on either side but did not completely bridge the Rhine. From the near shore the bridge had six spans complete that reached about a fourth of the way out over the river. Under these spans were sheds and shacks that had been used by the builders. As the autobahn was built up about twenty feet above the level of the land, it was to offer some protection from enemy fire and the unfinished bridge was also to afford valuable protection. Between the unfinished bridge and the mouth of the Frankenthal Kanal, which had been designated as the boat sites for the assault battalions, a ditch or old canal, which had long been in disuse, runs parallel to the river and at that time was partly filled with water. It was to present an obstacle to the boat crews. Near the mouth of the Rhein Kanal was the remains of a pontoon bridge once used by the enemy.

At the "Cotton Baler" crossing site the Rhine has fairly steep and artificially reinforced banks. They are revetted with thick stone paving and heavy stone rubble

Initially, battalion aid stations were to cross as soon as possible and operate on the far shore in close communication with the battalion executive officers. The aid stations were to move forward in the zone of advance as the situation should permit. On the near shore the casualties were to be collected by Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, still commanded by the "Fedalman", Captain Hal Ferguson. When the situation should permit the collecting station would be established on the far shore.



at the foot. The current of the river was nearly twelve feet per second.

South of Sandhofen there is an island on the east of the Rhine River, made by the Rhine itself, its tributary the Neckar River and the Alt-Rhein.

It was impossible on 25 March to even attempt a diagnosis of the strength or location of enemy units opposite the Seventh Infantry. The Germans had sustained heavy losses and the defeated enemy, in confusion, had fallen back rapidly from the Siegfried Line to the east bank of the Rhine. In the XV Corps zone it was said remnants of twenty-two enemy divisions were likely to be encountered in dis-array on the eastern Rhine plain. The high command was not worrying much, as it felt, and accurately so, that the Rhine could be crossed

anywhere. The Seventh Infantry, however, was more concerned over the operation, as it had been assigned the toughest mission by the commanding general. It was to be on the exposed, vulnerable, right flank of the Third Infantry Division, XV Corps and entire American 7th Army.

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE RHINE 26 MARCH 1945

It was the third time in World War II that the Seventh Infantry had reached the Rhine River. On the first two occasions at Strasbourg and east of Colmar orders were not forthcoming for a jump across the water barrier but this time the "Cotton Balers" had received the nod and were ready to add the Rhine to the long list of creeks, streams and rivers crossed by men of the Regiment in this great conflict.

In the closing days of March 1945 the enemy knew the river was to be crossed north of Mannheim. At 2040 on the 25th two large explosions on the east side of the river were heard. One machine gun on the enemy side of the river fired spasmodically. The boat carrying parties dragged the storm and assault boats to the crossing sites. At 2220 the enemy started laying in artillery and mortar fire on the Seventh Infantry crossing sites and assembly areas. The engineers suffered nine casualties as some of the boats were hit and destroyed. Smoke was laid-in around Sandhofen and the American artillery opened up counter-battery fire.

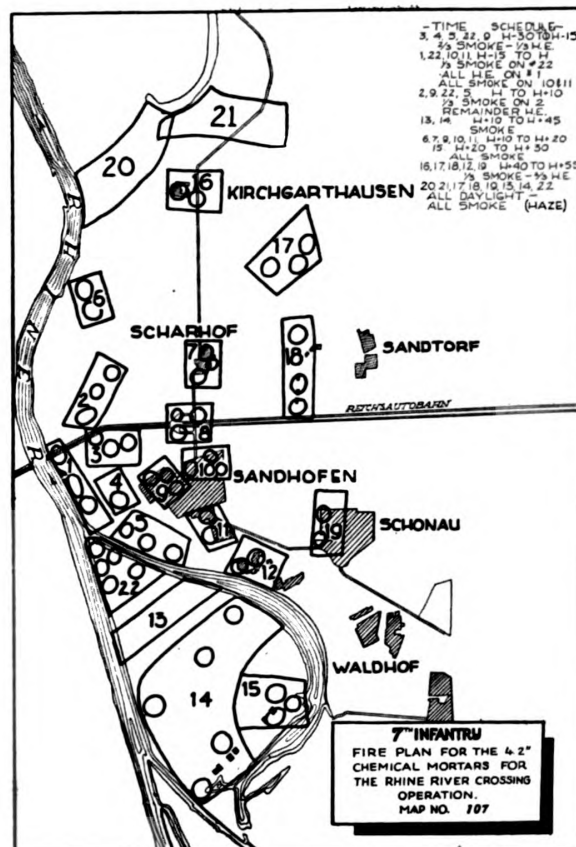
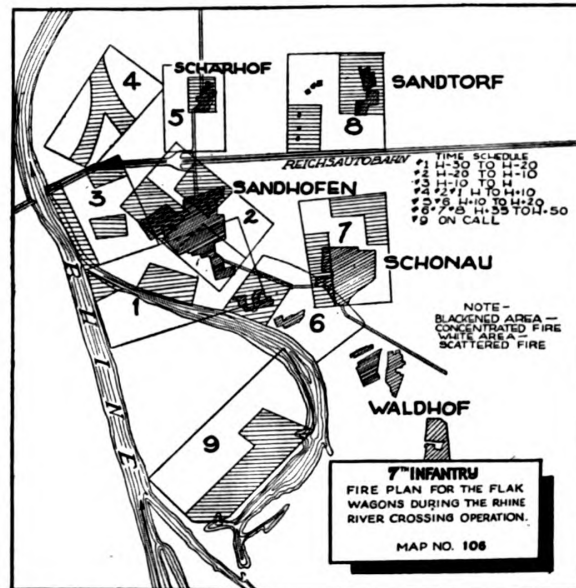
The foot troops moved out and at midnight the First Battalion troops closed into their final assembly area. The Third Battalion troops were assembled in their area at 0100. The Second Battalion passed through Morsch at 0145 and at 0223 was closed into the final assembly area.

The Third Division and XV Corps Artillery opened up with their pre-H-Hour concentrations at 0152. It was a terrific barrage that the supporting arm laid down. Other weapons joined fire. In the short period of 38 minutes to H-Hour 10,000 rounds of high explosive ammunition were fired. One would think that such a terrific barrage would silence all enemy weapons, but not so. Enemy mortars and self-propelled guns continued to fire and with deadly accuracy. The enemy hit a barn with an incendiary shell, in the vicinity of an observation post used by the Commanding Officer and set it afire. The burning barn, and flares shot into the sky by the enemy, lit up the area, silhouetted the men and boats and made them excellent targets for the enemy who poured in deadly machine gun, mortar and SP fire.

Undaunted by the enemy opposition the "Cotton Balers" of the First and Third Battalions climbed into the boats and shoved off from the western bank. All hell broke loose as the enemy increased his fire. Some of the boats were hit with the men killed and the boats made into kindling. Other boats developed motor trouble and floundered around on the river. But others succeeded during the confusion and roar of the guns and crossed with their assaulting troops to return for more human cargo. On the far bank more fire from enemy mortars and self-propelled guns was received but the troops pushed on.

Sergeant Joseph E. Brohel of Company "I", and Privates First Class John J. Burns and Charles W. Roscart of Company "K" assumed command of their respective platoon and squads after the original leaders were killed or wounded and, despite the intense enemy artillery, flakwagon, mortar, machine gun and small arms fire, kept control of them during the crossing operations.³⁰

At 0340 all the assault troops of both the First and Third Battalions were across the river and closing in on their objectives. Enemy troops occupying a final protective line before Sandhofen opened up on the advancing "Cotton Balers" with fire from automatic weapons and tanks.



³⁰ GOs No. 249 & 268, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 10 & 21 July '45. Sgt. Brohel, Pfc Burns & Roscart were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Technical Sergeant Clarence W. Copp of Company "B" had been one who had braved the concentrated enemy shell fire and led his boat team through the impact area and across the Rhine River. Then when his men were halted by machine gun fire from a distance of 150 yards, he crawled forward alone in a singlehanded assault. Despite a painful wound in his leg, he destroyed a German machine gun and its three-man crew with hand grenades. Limping and hobbling, he led his men through eight more hours of combat to knock out another enemy machine gun, storm an enemy-held house in Sandhofen and capture four German panzerfaustmen. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.³¹

In the early morning of 26 March, Second Lieutenant Martin G. Kvaas and Sergeant Arthur Benjamin of Company "A", Staff Sergeant John E. Clark of Company "B" and Staff Sergeant Alfred M. Brown of Company "C" rallied scattered elements of their companies, which had survived the crossing of the Rhine, and led them through the enemy shell fire towards Sandhofen. Private First Class Maurice Meyers, a radio operator of Company "C", summoned friendly artillery fire with his radio and silenced a German tank firing on the "Cotton Balers". Sergeant Maymon E. Sigmon, by hand grenade fire, and Private First Class Clarence Firestone, by "bazooka" fire, each destroyed an enemy machine gun position and crews. Private First Class Noah H. Weaver, a machine gunner of Company "D", by continuous firing, pinned down a sizeable enemy force and enabled "Cotton Baler" riflemen to capture twenty prisoners.³²



2 Lt. Samuel L. Daniel, Co. "I", and 1 Lt. Earle E. Krampe, Co. "M", were two of the 24 "Cotton Balers" who were killed in action when the 7th Infantry crossed the Rhine River.

By 0500 the First Battalion overcame all resistance before Sandhofen and entered the town to become engaged in a bitter house-to-house battle that raged all day. When he killed three Germans in a fire duel, Private Henry Fisher of Company "C" rescued three of his comrades who had been trapped in a house by a squad of enemy riflemen. Private First Class Michael J. Pindyski of Company "B" alone assaulted an enemy-held house in Sandhofen and dislodged the enemy force therein, when he killed two Germans and captured three others.³³

The Third Battalion on the left encountered less opposition and moved rapidly that morning. At 0345 as Company "L" moved without opposition on Objective "G" the remainder of the battalion was on Objective "H", the clover leaf of the Reichsautobahn. Scharhof, or Objective "I", was captured with little trouble. Company "I" raced on for Gut Kirschgartshausen, or Objective "M". When his company was halted by machine gun and small arms fire, Private First Class Eugene H. Wojtowicz of Company "I" crawled and ran towards the well-concealed enemy positions 150 yards away. Drawing fire that grazed his pack, he nevertheless routed the Germans with Browning automatic rifle fire. As the enemy attempted to renew the fight from secondary positions, Private First Class Wojtowicz signalled his squad to join him. Three of the enemy were then killed and the remainder forced to flee. As a result, his company

was able to attain its objective without suffering a casualty.³⁴

Third Battalion patrols went on to the contact points. Company "L" continued east from Objective "G" and closed on Objective "J". Fire was received from four enemy tanks and Infantry near the factories located in the woods. The Third Battalion directed all the artillery possible on the enemy.

Meanwhile the Second Battalion, which had closed into its forward assembly area and waited for orders to cross the river, had to endure the deadly enemy fire which inflicted casualties of killed and wounded. At 0600 Company "F" started the Second Battalion movement across the river with whatever boats were on hand. Of the first three to start out two were hit by enemy fire and capsized. Several of the men were killed. The boat shuttling continued amid the rain of hostile shells and it was not until 0800 that "Fox" Company was completely across the river. At 1100 the White Battalion troops were all on the east side and moved to the vicinity of the dyke before Sandhofen.

Anti-Tank Company started crossing the Rhine on the "DUKWS" at 0830 that morning and completed the operation at 1010. Two platoons went to the support of the First Battalion and one to the Third Battalion.

The seven DD (Direct Drive), or "floating" tanks, of Company "C", 756th Tank Battalion, had moved up under the artillery barrages before H-Hour but one was hit by enemy fire, set ablaze and destroyed with four casualties sustained. Two others developed maintenance trouble and became useless for the operation. The remaining four "floated" across the Rhine but in the attempt to scale the steep, artificial, stone bank on the east side two slid backward into the water and out of sight. The other two succeeded in scaling the bank and were the first two vehicles across the Rhine in the Seventh Infantry sector. They went to the support of the riflemen and gave a good account of themselves in the fighting that occurred.

The fighting in Sandhofen became unusually bitter with the First Battalion troops clearing it, house by house. The enemy hurled heavy concentrations from heavy artillery of the 240mm type into the town plus deadly, flat, trajectory fire from the dreaded "88s" and the high velocity anti-aircraft artillery. During the fighting in the town Second Lieutenant Martin G. Kvaas and Staff Sergeant Paul E. Osborne, both of Company "A", proved themselves to be leaders.³⁵

Members of the Medical Detachment aided the wounded and even two German "medics" sacrificed their lives to aid a "Cotton Baler". Each time Seventh Infantry "medics" attempted to reach a wounded comrade who lay in one of the streets of Sandhofen, vicious fire from two enemy machine guns drove them to cover.

³¹ For authority see GO No. 484, HQ, 7th Army, 7 Sept. '45.

³² GOs No. 212, 227, 256, 282, 289 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 & 25 June, 15 July, 1 & 5 Aug. & 5 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Kvaas & Sgt. Benjamin were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts Brown & Clark, Sgt. Sigmon, Pfc Firestone, Meyers & Weaver were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

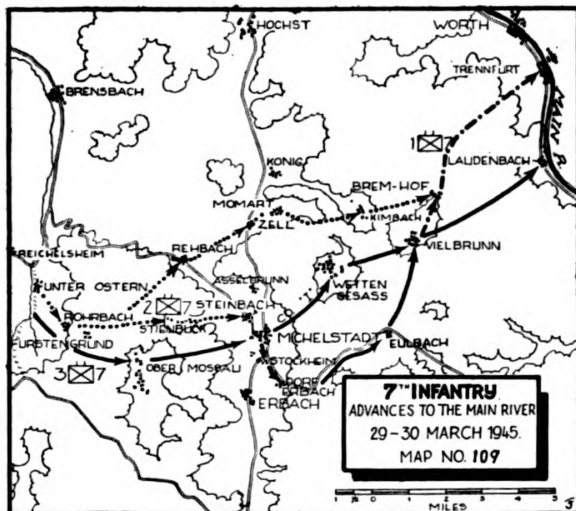
³³ GOs No. 182 & 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 & 30 May '45. Pfc Pindyski & Pvt. Fisher were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁴ GO No. 228, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 26 June '45. Pfc Wojtowicz was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁵ GOs No. 226 & 228, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 26 June '45. 2 Lt. Kvaas & S/Sgt. Osborne were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

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About midway from Dorf-Eubach to Eubach a small enemy force was encountered near a knocked out American tank. A brief fire fight occurred then eighteen enemy surrendered and the advance was resumed to Vielbrunn. Along the way an enemy ammunition dump was seized. From Vielbrunn the Third Battalion advanced northeast to Laudenbach on the Main River where a fire fight occurred during the morning of the 30th before the town was cleared.



Meanwhile the First Battalion trucked to Vielbrunn, then moved on foot to the northeast to Brem Hof and passed through the Second Battalion, which then followed. At 0900, 30 March, the First Battalion was in Trennfurt on the Main River.

Company "L" moved south from Laudenbach and established a road block at Klein Heubach.

7th INFANTRY CROSSES THE MAIN RIVER AND CONTINUES THE ATTACK

At 2230 the night of 30 March the First and Second Battalions moved to Worth and crossed the Main River by foot bridges. The 30th and 15th Infantries had already crossed the river against practically no opposition and held a bridgehead on the east bank. The First and Second Battalion troops marched to assembly areas in the vicinity of Streit then at midnight moved to a line of departure east of the town and attacked through the 30th Infantry.

The First Battalion troops entered Eschau during the night and engaged enemy in a small arms fight until 0800 when the town was taken. The First Battalion had sustained thirteen casualties from enemy small arms fire and grenades but inflicted casualties on the enemy and took thirty-two of them prisoners. The troops went on and seized Sommerau.

The Second Battalion, on the right, likewise advanced and entered Monchberg. In the morning the town was cleared of resistance and the battalion continued on to the east.

Private First Class Charles J. Brennan, Jr., of Company "A", Private First Class Reno Smith of Company "B" and Private William Lafata of Company "F" were outstanding during the actions of the battalions on 31 March.³⁸

The two attacking battalions continued their advances on Easter Sunday and encountered enemy road blocks

and small forces in the towns. Some tank fire was received and snipers were numerous.

The First Battalion advanced to the northeast and at 1430 had elements cleaning out Unter Aulenchach and Wildenstein. Moving north from Unter Aulenchach, Red troops engaged enemy in a sharp small arms battle and received some fire from self-propelled guns. By-passing a road block riflemen were in Hobbach at 1700. Company "A" drove on for Wintersbach and became engaged in a machine gun and small arms battle. Company "C" followed "Able". Winning the small arms engagement, the troops pushed on during the night and encountered a strong block on the western edge of the town which was covered with automatic weapons. The town was cleared during the following morning. Two blown bridges on the outskirts of the town delayed the armor



1 Lt. Harold W. Erhardt, 2 Bn. Hq. Co., wounded in action on 15 March, died in a German prisoner of war hospital in Lindenfels, Germany, on 29 March 1945.

and vehicles from keeping up with the "doughfeet". To further hamper the operations four tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, became "stuck in the mud" on secondary roads.

The advance of the Second Battalion to the northeast was also against little real opposition initially, though the wooded terrain made travel unpleasant. At 1715, 31 March, the White troops were in the Wildensee and Hofwildensee and swung north. Early Easter morning the White Battalion troops entered Krausenbach and experienced a sharp, bitter fight with rifles and automatic weapons, before the town was cleared. Sergeant Alfred Weingarden of Company "G" was cited for actions performed in Krausenbach.³⁹

The Third Battalion meanwhile trucked to Hobbach where a road block prevented further travel by vehicle. The troops dismounted and marched on to Wintersbach where they passed through the First Battalion to continue the advance of the Regiment to the northeast. At 1330 the Blue troops had reached Rohrbrunn and were engaged in a fight.

As Second Lieutenant John H. Soules of Company "K" was leading his platoon in a flanking maneuver against a 77mm gun near Rohrbrunn he observed twelve Germans about 100 yards to his left preparing to set up two machine guns. Instantly shifting direction, Second Lieutenant Soules, disregarded a burst of automatic fire that barely missed him, and led an assault on the group. All twelve of the enemy were killed before they could return fire. Twenty other Germans near the roadblock were routed. In a rapid pursuit Second Lieutenant Soules' platoon captured the entire force, plus four guns ranging from 20mm to 177mm calibre, a truck, and a communications center.⁴⁰

³⁸ GOs No. 182, 187 & 316, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 & 30 May & 1 Sept. '45. Pfc's Brennan & Smith & Pvt. Lafata were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

³⁹ GO No. 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 June '45. Sgt. Weingarden was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁰ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. 2 Lt. Soules was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Third Battalion continued on and by-passed numerous enemy who hid out in the woods and engaged in sniper action. Late in the afternoon the troops had advanced across country through dense forests to Lichtenau and Erlenfurth on the Hafenlohr stream.

Both the First and Second Battalions moved by motor during the night of 1-2 April from Wintersbach and Krausenbach to Lichtenau and Erlenfurth. At 2130 the First Battalion passed through the Third and continued the attack to the northeast during the night. At 0550, 2 April the troops had penetrated through the forests to Bischhornerhof and struggled to eliminate a block. Overcoming resistance by the block the troops drove on and attacked Rechtenbach. Heavy small arms and anti-tank fire was received. One tank supporting the attack received a direct hit from an enemy 77mm anti-tank gun. The shell struck the turret, knocked out the piece of armor, and killed two of the tankmen. At 1130 the town of Rechtenbach was cleared and the troops pushed on. At 1600 Company "C" was in the woods 2000 yards northeast of Rechtenbach and west of Lohr. The remainder of the battalion was around Rechtenbach.

The Second Battalion meanwhile had detrucked in Erlenfurth at 0300, 2 April and then attacked east for the "Spiderweb", as the crossroads looked on the map. The White Battalion advanced across country with Companies "E" and "G" abreast and "F" trailing in reserve. No serious opposition was encountered but at one place it was reported that three enemy tried the impossible and launched a counter-attack. Their attack was not too vicious or violent as they were taken prisoners rather than killed.

In the small unit actions which occurred two members of Company "E" distinguished themselves. When the fire of seven enemy soldiers inflicted three casualties on his platoon Private First Class Edward E. Berg single-handedly assaulted the enemy force. Running forward and firing his rifle from the hip he killed one German and wounded two others. When he was about twenty yards from them four other Germans surrendered with the two wounded men. On another occasion Staff Sergeant William S. Harvey ran toward a hostile machine gun position fifty yards away. As the German machine gunner turned his weapon on him, he tossed a hand grenade into the enemy position. A burst of bullets barely missed him but his well placed grenade killed the enemy gunner and wounded his assistant.⁴¹

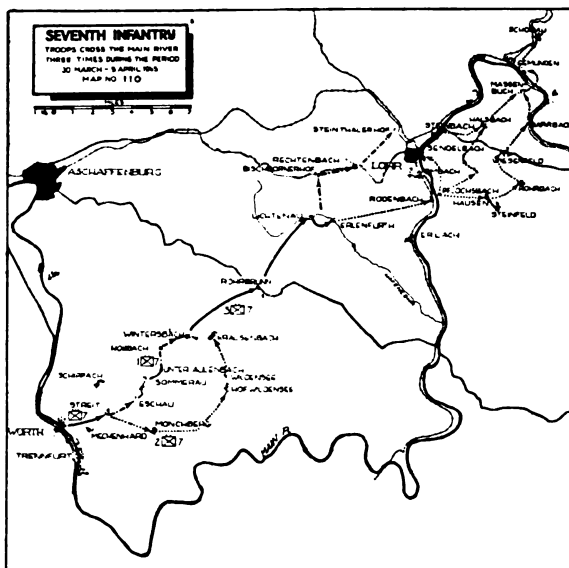
The Second Battalion entered Rodenbach on the Main River and there fought a spirited battle against make-shift enemy forces consisting of officer candidates, air force pilots and personnel who had been thrown into the Infantry and imbued with the "die for the Fatherland" propaganda. In the end they chose not to die and 160 were taken prisoners of war. Others fled to the south. The Second Battalion forces chased the remnants of the enemy south along the Main River nearly to Erlach which was out of the Seventh Infantry zone. The troops then returned to Rodenbach where the battalion established its command post.

The rifle companies of the Second Battalion attacked north between the railroad tracks and the Main River for Wombach. Companies "E" and "G" were in the attacking wave while "F" was again in reserve. Brief but fierce fire-fights were fought, in which Private First Class Floyd V. Weimaster of Company "G" and Second Lieutenant John Ananich, Jr., were outstanding.⁴²

At 1915 Wombach was captured by the Second Battalion riflemen. In the meantime however the battalion headquarters group in Rodenbach was counter-attacked

and a call was sent for rifle elements to return to its assistance.

A force of approximately forty Germans reinforced with machine guns attacked the rear elements of the Second Battalion in Rodenbach. First Lieutenant Joseph G. Lambert, the battalion transportation officer, rallied six men and led them against a reinforced squad of Germans in position on a hill 250 yards away. One member of his group was killed, a second wounded and his own right wrist was shattered by the enemy machine gun fire,



but First Lieutenant Lambert resolutely led his remaining men into firing positions 100 yards from the enemy. Captain Joseph E. Martin of Second Battalion Headquarters Company by that time had organized 25 of the battalion headquarters personnel and led them in a counter-attack against the enemy forces. A tank of the 756th Tank Battalion and 50 calibre machine guns mounted on two jeeps augmented the fire power of the men and in a 30 minute fight casualties were inflicted on the enemy, 20 captured along with five machine guns and the remaining enemy were driven off.⁴³

CCB of the 14th Armored Division passed through the Seventh Infantry in Rechtenbach during the afternoon of 2 April in what was expected to be a wild dash to the east, but the tankers got no further than Lohr where the enemy knocked out a half dozen pieces of American Armor.

Though the Seventh Infantry, with one battalion south of Lohr, another on high ground to the northwest and the third in Rechtenbach had been in an excellent position to surround the town from all sides and close in on it, orders had been for the armored combat command to pass through and drive on the town. A coordinated attack by the Seventh Infantry rifle battalions would have brought the downfall of the place in one day but as it turned out it took the armored boys, who

⁴¹ GO No. 262, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July '45, S/Sgt. Harvey & Pfc Berg were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴² GOs No. 187 & 282, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May & 1 Aug. '45, 2 Lt. Ananich & Pfc Weimaster were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴³ GOs No. 158 & 177, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 25 May '45, Capt. Martin & 1 Lt. Lambert were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

could not maneuver off of road, several days to seize it and then the Seventh Infantry had to go to their assistance. The First Battalion had advanced against no opposition, but over rugged wooded terrain to Steintalerhof, northwest of Lohr and cut the road there.

SECOND BATTALION CROSSES THE MAIN FOR THE SECOND TIME

Between 1800 and 1900 on 3 April the troops of the Second Battalion crossed the Main River for a second time, in the vicinity of Pflochsbach. The crossing was made in assault craft and "DUKWS". Aggressive patrols were sent to the east, north and south. A Company "E" patrol encountered a three-man enemy patrol mounted on horses and drove it off. Hausen was found to be occupied by enemy. During the night artillery was fired on the town at 0110, 0300 and 0600.

The 165th Engineers built a pontoon raft during the night and attached armor of the Second Battalion commenced crossing the river at 0615, 4 April, but the raft broke loose and delay resulted before the armor had completely crossed.

Company "E" reported Hausen and Steinfeld free of enemy soldiers at 1030, occupied the two towns and sent patrols to Rohrbach and Wiesenfeld. At 1030 Company "F", with attached armor, moved north from Pflochsbach. During the day the Second Battalion troops and attachments cleared the area within the big loop made by the Main River. Sendelbach, Steinbach, Halsbach, Wiesenfeld, Rohrbach, Massenbuch and Harrbach were cleared. Only 38 prisoners of war were taken during the day.

During the Second Battalion movements which directly benefitted the 14th Armored Division elements in Lohr the Red Battalion remained in place at Steintalerhof, prepared to close in on Lohr from the north. The tankers, angered and embarrassed by the delay to get through Lohr, refused direct assistance from the regular Infantry, who were just as happy and for once experienced the pleasure of sitting back and watching "the other fellow do it". The tankers were assisted by fire from the Seventh Infantry however, though the "Cotton Balers" never actually attacked for the town.

SECOND BATTALION CROSSES THE MAIN FOR THE THIRD TIME

At 2300, 4 April, the Division G-3 called the Seventh Infantry Command Post and announced that the 14th Armored Division was in trouble and that the 30th Infantry north of the loop in the Main River would advance to the south, seize Gemunden and clean out the valley on the north side of the river. The Second Battalion, Seventh Infantry, was to remain in position on the tip of the peninsula and be prepared to support the 30th Infantry in any way possible. In forty-five minutes time the G-3 was notified that the Seventh Infantry would send an officer with an SCR 300 radio to the 30th Infantry early in the morning for liaison purposes.⁴⁴ The "Cotton Baler" Second Battalion overlooked Gemunden and was willing to render all assistance necessary.

At 0105, 5 April, the Third Division commander called by phone. He directed Colonel Heintges to have the Second Battalion cross the Main River southeast of Gemunden, then to attack the town from the east as the 30th Infantry was not to take it after all. He realized the "Cotton Baler" battalion was in the best position to take the town. The tankers were having

trouble proceeding along the north side of the river. The crossing was ordered to be made by assault craft and in the vicinity of Massenbuch.⁴⁵

Orders were sent to Lieutenant Colonel Duncan and to the engineers, who had to move equipment across the Main at Rodenbach and transport it across the peninsula to Massenbuch. That took time and it was not until noontime on 5 April that the Second Battalion troops were able to cross the river for the third time and drive on Gemunden. Due to muddy banks the armor was not able to cross with the troops. Small arms and light artillery fire was received during the advance.

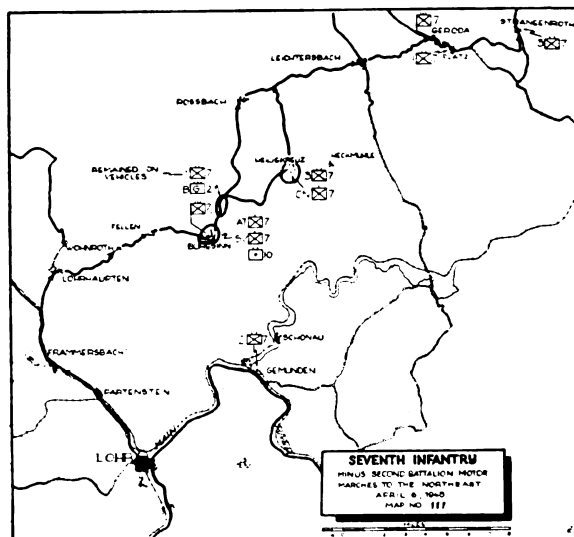
Without its armor the Second Battalion seized all of Gemunden at 1530 with over 70 prisoners taken. Sergeant Leslie H. Capps of Company "G" was outstanding during the action.⁴⁶

The 14th Armored Division troops then entered from the west. At 0630, 6 April, the Second Battalion attacked to the north and seized Schonau.

While the Second Battalion crossed the Main River for the third time and seized Gemunden the remainder of the Regiment prepared to move. At 0245, 6 April, the Regiment minus the Second Battalion commenced the motor march and passed through Lohr, Partenstein, Frammersbach and Lohrhaupten to areas in the vicinity of Burgsin and Heiligkrenz where only short stops were made before the march was continued over bad roads to Geroda. From there the Red Battalion troops marched to the vicinity of Platz while the Blue Battalion troops went on to Stangenroth.

At 2100 Company "A" moved to establish blocks. One rifle platoon entered Aschach and after a sharp small arms fight occupied the town at 0200, 7 April.

At 0700 the Red and Blue Battalions launched attacks to the east. The First Battalion troops seized Frauenroth and Stralsbach without opposition. Company "B" crossed the Saale River and occupied Bocklet. At 1030 a platoon of "Charlie" Company with armor moved north to Hohn where a fight was had. Enemy anti-tank guns knocked out one tank destroyer. Company "A" sent forces from Aschach to Grossenbach and occupied the town against very light resistance.



⁴⁴ Unit Journal, 7th Infantry, 4 April '45.

⁴⁵ Unit Journal, 7th Infantry, 5 April '45.

⁴⁶ GO No. 282, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 1 Aug. '45. Sgt. Capps was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Blue Battalion on the north encountered no opposition at the beginning of the attack. Premich and Stainborg were seized. Then the troops ran into a strong road block near Steinach supported by three Mark V tanks, two anti-tank guns and about two companies of automatic riflemen. A heavy fight ensued before the block was cleared at about noon-time. Technician Fifth Grade John A. Owen, a radio operator; Technician Fifth Grade William A. Wanner, a Browning automatic rifleman, and Private Harold C. Smith, a rifleman, all of Company "L", and Private First Class Charles C. Haire of Company "M" were cited for the part they played in winning the fight.⁴⁷

Patrols pushed on for Steinach where the enemy had concentrated armor. The attack was pressed as the enemy retaliated with tank, artillery and Nebelwerfer fire. The "screaming meemies" were the first received for quite some time. The fight continued through the night, then at dawn of the 8th the reinforced Blue Battalion launched a powerful attack. A heavy battle ensued that cost the enemy ten Mark V tanks knocked out by tank destroyer and "bazooka" fire. Steinach was cleared by noontime that day and patrols pushed on for Roth and Nickersfelden. Roth was occupied after a small arms battle.

While the Blue Battalion was thus heavily engaged, the First Battalion mopped up resistance in the vicinity of Bocklet and Hohn and was thrown somewhat on the defensive. At five minutes after midnight, 7-8 April, Company "B" in Bocklet received a sharp counter-attack. At 0200 Captain James B. Rich, Jr., commanding Company "B", reported his command post surrounded by enemy.

When a platoon of Germans stormed into the command post in Bocklet, Captain Rich inspired nine men with him to defend the house. Posting a defense on the

second story, he calmly walked from room to room, encouraging his men despite bullets which came up through the floor. When the enemy attempted to charge upstairs behind hand grenade fire, Captain Rich, who had stationed himself at the head of the stairway, killed the leading German with his pistol and forced the rest back. Although the Germans set fire to the house, he refused to capitulate and held out for three and a half hours until other elements drove the enemy from Bocklet.⁴⁸

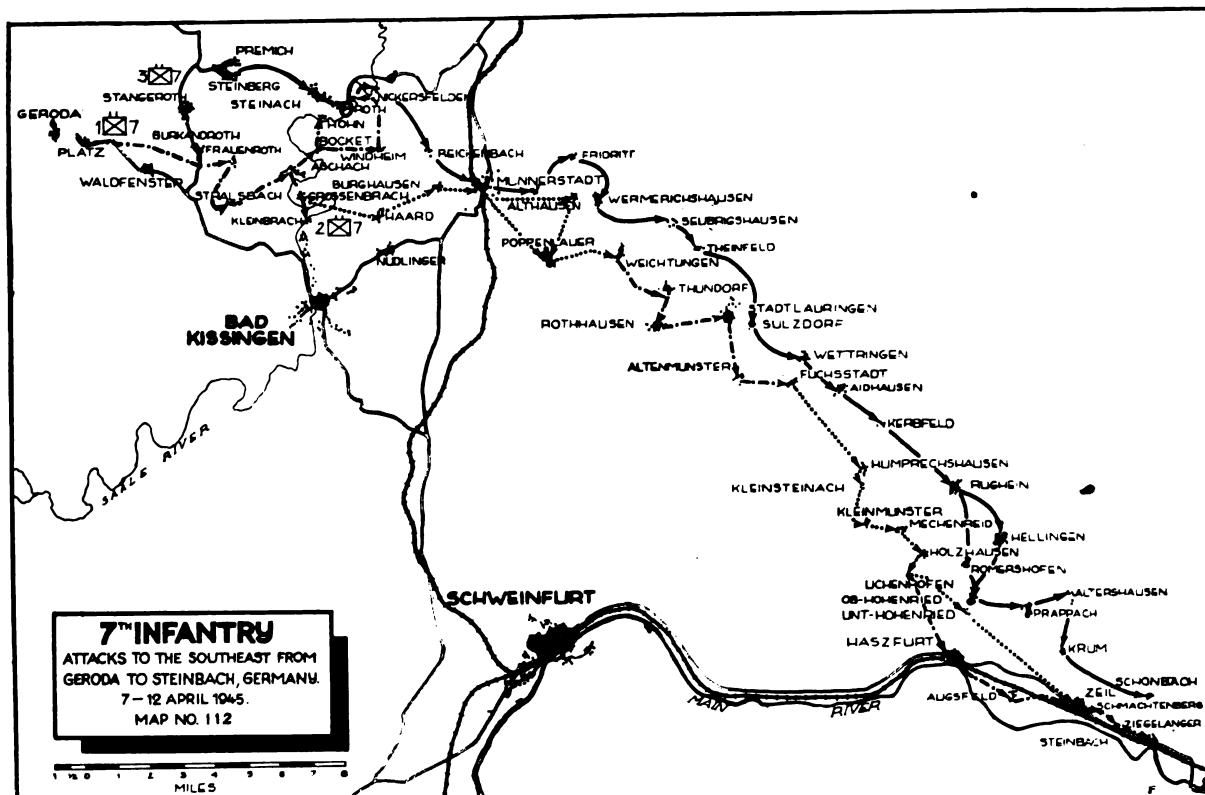
Company "A" sent a platoon to reinforce "Baker" Company and by 0430 the situation had cleared. Casualties sustained were light. One platoon of Company "C" with elements of the Battle Patrol occupied Hohn during the night against small arms fire.

SECOND BATTALION RETURNS TO REGIMENTAL CONTROL AND ATTACKS THROUGH THE FIRST

On the 7th of April the Second Battalion was released from division control in the vicinity of Grafendorf and moved by motor to Stangenroth. At 0230 on the 8th the troops moved to Aschach and at 0645 pushed through the First Battalion. The town of Haard fell to the attacking troops at 1130 after resisting with small arms. A patrol moved to the south to Nudlinger was cleared. Contact was later established with elements of CCB of the 14th Armored Division which advanced

⁴⁷ GOs No. 226, 264, 316 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June, 19 July, 1 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. T/5 Owen, T/5 Wanner, Pfc Haire & Pvt. Smith were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁴⁸ GO No. 227, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 June '45. Capt. Rich was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



from Bad Kissingen. A total of 132 enemy had been captured by the battalions.

The Second and Third Battalions continued the attack in their zones against scattered small arms and sniper fire. No prepared enemy positions were encountered.

The Third Battalion seized Reichenbach after a small arms fight then moved through Munnerstadt, Althausen, Fridritt, Wermerichshausen, Seubrigshausen, Theinfeld, Sulzdorf, Wettringen and Aidhausen where only scattered small arms fire was encountered on the morning of the 9th. During the night the rifle units had by-passed enemy stragglers hiding out in the woods. A force of by-passed enemy attacked the battalion command group in Fridritt and Wermerichshausen, captured five Third Battalion men, shot up four jeeps and knocked out a tank destroyer. A lively engagement then ensued with the situation finally clearing up in favor of the Blue Battalion. Fifty-five of the enemy, including an officer, were captured along with four horse drawn 175mm howitzers. Technical Sergeant Anthony J. Dorato had played an important part in directing the operations.⁴⁹

The Second Battalion had advanced from Haard to Burghausen, Munnerstadt, Althausen, Poppenlauer, and Weichtungen where it held up and was passed through by the First Battalion around midnight of 8-9 April.

In Munnerstadt the battalion had encountered trouble but overcame it when Staff Sergeant Anthony C. Pecar displayed great leadership. Advancing through fire, Staff Sergeant Pecar killed an enemy machine pistol operator at 15 yards range with "Tommy gun" fire. As he continued forward two other machine pistol operators, 30 yards away, opened fire on him. Firing from a kneeling position he killed the two Germans, and then forced a nearby rifleman to surrender. As he led the way deeper into the enemy position a machine gun suddenly opened fire and pinned his men down. While bullets smashed into trees inches from him, Staff Sergeant Pecar crawled forward to a point less than 40 yards from the emplacement and hurled a hand grenade. He then charged, firing from the hip, and killed the two-man crew. For his heroism he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

On the night of 8 April three men of Company "C" were caught beneath the tank they had been riding, when it turned over on its side. Sergeant Glenn D. Brooks was killed. Private First Class Frederick J. Bassett, though badly bruised, managed to free himself. He then crawled back under the tank and rescued the third soldier.⁵⁰

The First Battalion continued the advance to the southeast in the right of the Regimental zone. Thundorf, Rothhausen, Stadtlauringen, Altenmunster and Fuchstadt were seized. Only scattered enemy resistance was encountered as the enemy was without fortified, dug-in or prepared positions anywhere in the zone and armor was absent. Private First Class Wesley Falls Down of First Battalion Headquarters Company, who was the first into Fuchstadt and engaged the enemy there, was cited for gallantry which he displayed on that day.⁵¹

The Second Battalion passed through the First Battalion in the right of the zone to Kleinsteinach. The battalion held up on the 10th, patrolled to the front and cleaned enemy out of the rear areas. Elements of the 14th Armored Division were contacted in Reichmannshausen by Second Battalion patrols and the Third Battalion established contact with the 179th Infantry of the 45th Infantry Division on the left. A Blue Battalion patrol entered Rugheim and found it unoccupied. A Second Battalion patrol to Uchenhofen encountered small arms and mortar fire. Private First Class Stephen S. Warbeck,

of Company "G", was killed and another man was captured. The patrol lost its SCR 300 radio and pulled back. It was estimated that from 50 to 100 enemy were in the town.

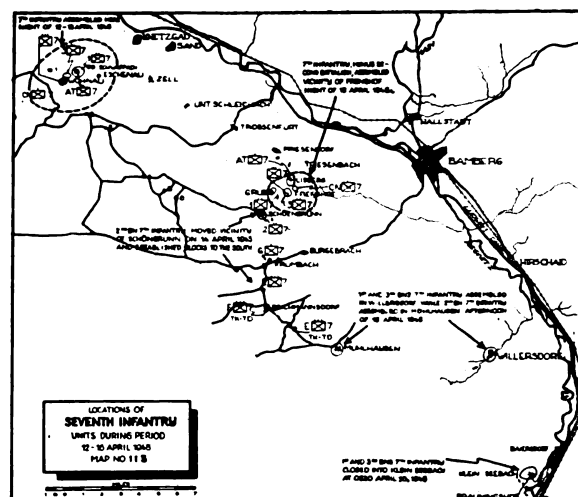
At 1530 on the 11th the Regiment took up the advance to the southeast once more. The Third Battalion continued to advance on the left while the Second was on the right.

The Second Battalion encountered only small arms fire as it seized Kleinsteinach, Kleinmunster, Mechenried, Holshausen, Unchenhofen, Ober Hohenried and Unt. Hohenreid.

The Third Battalion encountered small arms and automatic weapons' fire, light artillery and mortar fire, but captured Hellingen, Romershofen and Prappach.

At 2350, 11 April, the First Battalion passed through the right of the Second Battalion and attacked Haszfurt. Only scattered small arms fire and a few rounds of mortar fire were received. A few blocks were encountered but the town was easily cleared and captured during the morning of the 12th.

The Second Battalion continued its advance towards Augsfeld, then to the high ground to the east. An unusually heavy small arms battle, for that stage of the campaign, was fought before the high ground was occupied. The battalion then moved on to Zeil which was taken after a short struggle.



At 1700, 12 April, the First Battalion passed through the Second at Zeil and seized Steinbach where it held up. The other objectives, Ebelsbach and Gleisenau, had been taken by friendly forces and there was no need for further attacks.

The Third Battalion on the left continued its advance and seized Sechesthal, Krum, a road junction in the woods, and Schonbach, where it, too, held up and contacted elements of the 45th Infantry Division.

The battalions moved to assembly areas in the vicinity of Wohnau, Ober Schwappach and Eschenau during the night of 12-13 April. Much difficulty was experienced on the bad roads, with many pieces of armor and vehicles becoming mired in the mud.

⁴⁹ GO No. 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June '45. T/Sgt. Dorato was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁰ GO No. 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 9 Aug. '45. Pfc Bassett was awarded the Soldier's Medal.

⁵¹ GO No. 306 HQ, 3d Inf. Div. 20 Aug. '45. Pfc Falls Down was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

The Second Battalion relieved the 30th Infantry of all its road blocks in the area. At 1600, 13 April, Division Headquarters ordered the Regiment to hold the Second Battalion in place on the blocks and move the remainder of the combat team to new assembly areas in the vicinity of Frenshof to the southeast.

The Third Division furnished the Regiment with twenty-five trucks to reinforce the organic vehicles for the move which was started at 1800. The Regiment, less the Second Battalion, motor marched to the northeast to Knetzgau then southeast through Zell, Ober Schleichach, Trosenfurt, Priesendorf and Lisberg to Frenshof. The Second Battalion was placed under division control.

On arriving in the new area at 2100 the Blue Battalion sent out a motorized patrol to the north. The patrol went as far as the Main River and captured two enemy. A dead American officer was found in a jeep near Triesenbach.

An enemy plane flew over the Regimental area the night of 13-14 April and dropped anti-personnel bombs on the Cannon Company area. Approximately thirty casualties were sustained including Corporal John Killham killed. Several vehicles were damaged. On 14 April

the Second Battalion advanced to Schonbrunn then established blocks at Krumbach, Reichsmannsdorf and Albach.

The First Battalion remained assembled but motorized in Grub while the Third Battalion remained assembled in Frenshof. Company "K" plus one tank platoon, one tank destroyer platoon, and six assault guns were detached to division to become part of a special task force which attacked to the southeast.

During the early afternoon of 15 April the Second Battalion, still under division control, displaced to the southeast to Muhlhausen while the remainder of the Regiment, less Company "K" and attachments, moved to areas in the vicinity of Willersdorf. The troops closed into their respective areas at 2015.

Five minutes after closing into the area the Regiment was ordered to continue the motor march to Klein Seebach and prepare to attack. The First and Third Battalions continued the motor march and closed into Klein Seebach at 0230, 16 April. The foot troops of the two battalions marched to the east and crossed the Regnitz River by footbridges east of Klein Seebach and closed into wooded areas north of Brauningshof. Company "K" and attached armor rejoined its battalion at 1100.

CHAPTER IV

The Battle of Nurnberg

16-20 APRIL 1945

At 1130 on 16 April the Red and Blue Battalions attacked to the south on the east side of the Regnitz River. On the left of the Regiment the 15th Infantry attacked, while the 222nd Infantry of the 42nd Infantry Division was on the right, west of the Regnitz.

The two attacking battalions moved initially against no opposition. The Blue troops passed through Marloffstein, Spardorf and Utenreuth while the Red troops moved through Erlangen and drew very light small arms fire. The First Battalion then assembled in the vicinity of Sieglitzhof as reserve.

The Second Battalion which was relieved of its blocking mission near Muhlhausen at 1030, 16 April, had moved to rejoin the Regiment, and detrucked near Sieglitzhof at 1415. The White Battalion crossed in front of the Blue troops to attack in the left half of the Regimental zone. The Third Battalion crossed over to the right half of the zone and continued abreast of the White Battalion.

The Second Battalion seized objectives in the woods by Weissensee then moved southwest for Tennenlohe. Considerable small arms, automatic weapons and self-propelled gun fire was received as the White Battalion "Cotton Balers" fought enemy entrenched in dug-in huts. The battle continued throughout the night of 16-17 April and the battalion lost five men killed and a number wounded. One Mark IV tank and an "88" were knocked out as the White Battalion troops controlled Tennenlohe at 0700. Sergeant Ted W. Sharol of Company "F" performed with gallantry before he was killed in action.⁵²

The Blue Battalion meanwhile passed through Buckenhof and seized 175 Germans as prisoners of war. The advance was continued through Erlangen to the south. Staff Sergeant Bennett O. Walker of Company "L"

singlehandedly attacked seven enemy riflemen who had wounded two members of his platoon near Tennenlohe, killed two of the Germans and took five prisoners.⁵² The Third Battalion forces knocked out two enemy tanks and four flakwagons and captured an additional batch of 150 enemy soldiers. Heavy machine gun fire was received from the vicinity of Bruck. An artillery ammunition plant and a prisoner of war camp were seized. The troops pushed on and cleared Grundlach at 0950 on the 17th and received "88" fire from the south.

From Tennenlohe the Second Battalion sent Company "E", still under its veteran commander, Captain James F. Powell, in a rapid move south to Reutles, while Company "G" commanded by First Lieutenant Louie Van Hoy, drove through the woods to Neunhof.

Near Neunhof, Germany, when deadly machine gun and flakwagon crossfire at 250 to 300 yards range wounded eighteen men and cut them off from their forward observer, Privates First Class Christian A. Funk and George E. Miller both mortar radiomen of Company "H", directed concentrations that silenced the enemy.⁵³

The riflemen of Company "G" entered Neunhof and engaged enemy in sharp skirmishes along several of the streets. They killed three Germans and captured a total of twenty-five. As the company was consolidating its positions it received artillery and small arms fire from Kraftshof, farther to the south. Several enemy 155mm gun positions were soon spotted just north of that town

⁵² GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. Sgt. Sharol (posthumously) & S/Sgt. Walker were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵³ GO No. 212, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 16 June '45. Pfc's Funk & Miller were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

and a heavy concentration of artillery fire was registered in on them. The hostile crews quickly pulled their field pieces out of their emplacements and withdrew southwards. Company "G" then mopped up the remainder of Neunhof, taking nine more prisoners.

Company "F", meanwhile, led by First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin passed through "Easy" Company in Reutles and pushed south for Boxdorf. The company encountered machine gun and rifle fire which issued from a small patch of woods.

As Company "F" neared the edge of Boxdorf, several of its members were wounded by an hostile flakwagon south of the town. Nevertheless the "Cotton Balers" of "Fox" Company drove swiftly to the outskirts of the town and engaged approximately two platoons of enemy troops who were dug-in. Undaunted by hand grenade and rifle fire, elements of the company closed with the enemy, while the remainder infiltrated into the streets. The Germans fired machine pistols and rifles as they fell back to the extreme end of the town. While both sides were locked in fierce fighting at point-blank range, the enemy ruthlessly laid down heavy concentrations of artillery fire on the entire area. The fighting lasted for three hours, until the last of the enemy were driven from the town. During the fighting Staff Sergeant Michael C. Fanelli, Corporal Jackson McIntosh, Private First Class Bremton J. Morrison and Private George R. Neese distinguished themselves.⁵⁴



Pvt. Alvy L. Cunningham, Co. "E", was killed in action during the fighting for Nurnberg, Germany, on 18 April 1945.

Company "G" continued south from Neunhof, seized Kraftshof and closed on Buch. In the fading light of day numerous enemy troops were observed on the fringe of Buch. Halting his men First Lieutenant Van Hoy ordered his supporting tanks and tank destroyers to open fire. Shells hit directly into the enemy positions and the riflemen then advanced steadily. The Germans became disorganized. When assault elements of the company neared the town, large numbers of the enemy were so demoralized that they surrendered. The rifle platoons fanned out upon entering the town and rounded up other groups of Germans. As one platoon knifed through the town to cut off the escape route to the south, it received fire from a roadblock emplaced in the heart of Buch. While riflemen returned fire, a supporting tank directed shells at a hostile flakwagon on the far side of the roadblock, forcing the crew to abandon the weapon. Meanwhile, the remainder of the company cleared building after building and surrounding dugouts, taking approximately 150 prisoners in an hour and securing the town. "Fox" and "Easy" Companies moved up and by nightfall all fighting elements of the Second Battalion were in Buch.

Privates Arthur R. Pundt and Lyle Willick of Company "H" opened fire from a house on a small group of Germans and killed four of the enemy. They then shifted their fire to a larger enemy force massing to attack from a woods about 1400 yards away. Meanwhile American artillery pounded the wooded area driving about 50 Germans out into the open. As the enemy replied with artillery fire that hit nearby buildings the two machine

gunners raked the German troops with devastating fire and killed approximately 16 more. Their steady shooting drew the attention of a hostile tank, which sent three shells into the house, but the gunners refused to desert their dangerous post. A fifth tank shell killed Private Pundt and shot off one of Private Willick's legs.⁵⁵

Early in the afternoon of 17 April the Third Battalion, located in Grundlach and Gross, received a very heavy shelling from eight "88s", and returned the heavy fire. Tank destroyer fire knocked out two of the "88s".

Company "L" drove on and captured Steinach. At about 1740 hours while the company was still in the town, First Lieutenant George Pratt, the commanding officer, acted as fire control officer for the 10th Field Artillery Battalion. He saw four enemy flakwagons that were firing on Company "E". After several smoke rounds were adjusted on the enemy positions he then saw that the enemy actually had fourteen guns in position. He called for additional fire and soon twenty battalions of artillery poured a terrific concentration on Bislohe, Sack and Braunsbach. After a period of two hours, when the order to cease firing was given, First Lieutenant Pratt observed ten of the enemy guns knocked out but four self-propelled guns were attempting to escape. Once more the batteries fired salvos and the remaining enemy weapons were destroyed.

The artillery shoot virtually ended opposition before the Blue Battalion and the advance was taken up speedily. Company "I" pushed through Bislohe and Sack as "Love" Company pushed through Ronhof and entered Poppenreuth at 2045, the night of the 17th. In the northern part of the town twelve "88s" were surrounded and, with ammunition and sleepy crews, taken intact.

The First Battalion sent Company "B" down the road through the woods from Erlangen to Tennenlohe to clear it and mop up by-passed enemy in the woods. Then the battalion displaced forward by motor to reserve positions in the woods just north of Tennenlohe.

SECOND BATTALION PRESSES ATTACK ON NÜRNBERG, 18 APRIL 1945

From Buch the Second Battalion was in position to launch its attack on Nürnberg proper. Along the two miles of intervening road before the city limits were the three small suburban towns of Schnepfenreuth, Klein and Thon, each reportedly held in negligible strength.

Shortly after midnight of 17-18 April, Company "G" straddled the main road leading south and started moving out without its supporting armor. Although friendly units to the flanks were being temporarily contained by fierce resistance, "George" Company drove through Schnepfenreuth and Klein unopposed and headed for the suburb of Thon.

The plan of attack called for Company "G" to advance to a railroad embankment about 400 yards inside the town and hold up until the remainder of the battalion pulled abreast for a concerted push on Nürnberg.

⁵⁴ GOs No. 208, 226 & 295, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 12 & 24 June & 9 Aug. '45. S/Sgt. Fanelli was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. Cpl. McIntosh, Pfc Morrison & Pvt. Neese were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁵ GOs No. 345 & 370, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Pvt. Pundt (posthumously) & Pvt. Willick were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

Scarcely fifty yards from Thon, leading elements of "George" Company met heavy small arms and automatic fire coming from positions on both sides of the road. The "Cotton Balers" were so close to the enemy they could hear the Germans calling to one another in the darkness. In positions directly ahead, three machine guns on the left side of the road laid down a curtain of steel. Enemy riflemen and machine pistol men were stationed at almost every window of the houses on the outskirts of the town, and others were emplaced in dugouts around the houses. Later, estimates were that four companies of Germans were defending Thon. The volume of fire being laid down by the enemy was tremendous. Numerous flares were also used to illuminate the entire area.

With guns blazing, "Cotton Balers" of Company "G" drove relentlessly into the enemy positions, engaging in duels at point-blank range. Although men were knocked off their feet and stunned by "potato masher" grenades, they rose and closed with the enemy. While extremely heavy automatic fire temporarily checked the left flank of the company, which was struggling for the tall buildings on the fringe of the town, the right assault element pierced through the enemy's defenses, almost to the railroad embankment. But that numerically inferior force was hardly strong enough to withstand the formidable pressure exerted by the enemy. German troops were on every side of "George" Company's dispersed elements. The enemy had an integrated defense system in depth, the deeper Company "G" penetrated into it, the greater the resistance that was encountered. "George" Company was in danger of being slashed to pieces so First Lieutenant Van Hoy radioed back to the battalion commander in Klein for instructions. Unwilling for Company "G" to maintain its precarious position with both flanks exposed, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan ordered that the company withdraw as soon as possible to Klein, from which a battalion attack would be launched in early morning. First Lieutenant Van Hoy then skillfully withdrew his right flank from the center of the town and disengaged his entire company despite heavy hostile fire. No prisoners had been taken during the night fighting but at least six Germans were known to be dead.

In preparation for the dawn assault supporting armor of the Second Battalion moved up and savagely battered the buildings of Thon. That was followed by a heavy artillery concentration on the town and along the railroad. In the dim light of early dawn "George" Company advanced in attack formation across open fields towards the town. Company "E" followed, ready to throw its weight against either flank. "Fox" Company was held in reserve.

Fire by the armor and artillery, though savage and fierce, had not silenced or driven off the enemy. As the Company "G" men advanced on Thon heavy resistance developed. Terrific automatic fire checked the left flank. The right assault element punched its way into several outlying houses. Driving the fanatically stubborn Germans from one house to the next, elements of Company "G" gradually hammered a deep wedge to the right of the Thon-Nürnberg road.

A platoon of Company "E" was committed to swing around to the left of the held-up "George" Company elements on the left. Deploying in a broad field the platoon started across 800 yards of open ground, while other elements poured steady streams of fire into buildings directly to the front. The widely dispersed men of the platoon, advanced in small groups and encountered fire which issued from a group of apartment houses along the railroad. Although it sustained several casualties

the platoon finally reached the apartment buildings, but the Germans inside refused to break. The squads of the "Easy" Company platoon battled their way from room to room until, after an hour's fierce fighting, the last German was driven out of the buildings. Reorganizing swiftly, the platoon started across the intervening ground to the railroad embankment in pursuit of the enemy. Despite the fact that their own troops were in the area still fighting, the Germans laid down an artillery barrage, as the right flank of the Second Battalion shouldered its way to the embankment, which overlooked a huge lumber yard on the south side.

The center of the Second Battalion, Company "G's" left assault element, was still held up as the Company "E" platoon on the left and elements on the right had successfully advanced. The right assault element placed flanking fire on the enemy blocking Company "G's" left assault element. The 60mm mortar crews moved up behind captured buildings and lobbed shells into the enemy's midst. Additional fire was placed on the enemy lodged in the buildings and emplacements by the supporting armor which shot directly into stubborn enemy positions. The left assault element of "George" Company then stormed the buildings and engaged in floor to floor fighting that carried well into the morning. No position could be by-passed but every shed, building and room had to be checked and methodically cleared. In three hours' time fifteen of the enemy were killed as only six of them surrendered to the "Cotton Balers". The Germans, when pried from positions in buildings, took up new positions behind nearby piles of rubble and continued to fight with unbroken spirit. From the top floor of a large building, heavy machine guns of the White Battalion opened fire on enemy suicide groups fighting from nearby roof tops, and on the large lumber yard beyond the railroad tracks.

The two remaining platoons of Company "E" were committed on the right of Company "G" and in their attempts to surmount the railroad embankment encountered heavy enemy automatic fire. The detached platoon on the battalion's extreme left was called on to beat back several small sized enemy counter-attacks before crossing the tracks and penetrating to the edge of the lumber yard, in which large numbers of the enemy made a concerted stand. When the battalion's supporting armor attempted to move forward along the main road, it found the railroad underpass obstructed by a huge concrete roadblock.

Without waiting for the balance of the battalion to pull abreast, elements of Companies "E" and "G" on the right jumped off in an attack across the railroad under the fire of 60mm and 81mm mortars. Stumbling through the rubble of demolished buildings, the riflemen pressed forward despite intense sniper fire, and reached large apartment houses. At about the same time, Company "G's" left elements had overcome their stubborn resistance and surged up the side of the railroad embankment. Heavy fire was poured into the lumber yard. The Germans began to give way grudgingly.

Companies "E" and "G" found their newly won positions exceedingly difficult to hold. Enemy machine gunners and snipers, occupying a large factory building 400 yards to the front poured unbroken streams of fire through practically every window. A 20mm flakwagon and machine guns savagely raked the faces of the apartment houses. To the right front, across an open field, two other hostile machine guns focussed their fire on the buildings held by the "Cotton Balers". To neutralize the enemy fire 81mm mortars were called into play. They silenced the enemy guns in the field, then they

smoked the field and factory building. Captain Powell prepared one of the "Easy" Company platoons to swing in front of "George" Company and assault the factory. Under cover of the smoke, the platoon dashed through machine gun fire and reached the factory building. The "Cotton Balers" entered the building and in close-in fighting overpowered the enemy who began to surrender. As the riflemen combed the building, a section of heavy machine guns moved into the right wing of the factory, placed its guns in top-floor windows and fired down on a hostile flakwagon to the rear of the building. Utterly confused by the plunging fire the enemy crew abandoned the weapon and attempted to flee, but the deadly .50 calibre machine gun fire cut them down. Resistance in the factory area ended. Six of the enemy were dead and sixty held as prisoners of war.

The Second Battalion forces fought throughout the afternoon of 18 April to gain full possession of the railroad embankment and lumber yard. Approximately a company of Germans offered tough resistance in the lumberyard where they took advantage of every pile of lumber and rubble to stem the advance. In an hour and a half of fighting there, twenty-seven of the enemy were killed before the yard was completely cleared. Enemy knocked out the tank dozer which was trying to remove the road block at the under pass, with panzerfaust fire.

During the fighting on the outskirts of Nürnberg Sergeant Martin Weber of Company "G" displayed gallantry in action while leading his squad.⁵⁶

Meanwhile the Blue Battalion on the right cleared Poppenreuth, Wetzendorf, Schniegling and sent elements into the cemetery at Muggenhof on the very edge of Nürnberg proper.

FIRST BATTALION ATTACKS NÜRNBERG FROM THE NORTHWEST ON 18 APRIL 1945

The First Battalion, in Regimental reserve, displaced forward from Erlangen in successive moves on the 17th of April and finally in the morning of the 18th was assembled in Wetzendorf making preparations to go into the attack.

The First Battalion troops moved south from Wetzendorf and at 1300 launched an attack for Nürnberg. The troops advanced very slowly however due to heavy small arms, automatic and panzerfaust fire from the right flank across the Regnitz River.⁵⁷

Overcoming the resistance before the city the First Battalion troops entered Nürnberg proper and became heavily engaged. Several road blocks were encountered along with fanatical resistance from each building and the enemy had to be cleared from each room of each building, which slowed progress. First Lieutenant Aldo F. Dal Molin of Company "B" and First Lieutenant Andrew A. Marck of Company "D" gallantly led elements of their companies in the fight and distinguished themselves. Staff Sergeant Robert M. O'Kane of Company "B", who alone eliminated an enemy machine gun nest and Sergeant William J. Corbe of Company "A", who was wounded in action, were also outstanding. Technician Fifth Grade Charles H. Self and Private Ysabel Melchor, both machine gunners of Company "D", silenced many enemy positions with their deadly fire. Private James G. Shaw of Company "A" inspired his platoon by his gallant actions.⁵⁸

Tank destroyers were brought into action. About 150 members of the city's police force fought with the enemy soldiers and SS troopers to defend the Nazi shrine city but definitely did not care to continue the action to the

bitter end. They surrendered after the destroyers of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion battered the already much destroyed buildings.

The Second Battalion continued its push from Thon against fanatical resistance and entered Nürnberg proper on the 18th. Fire from small arms, automatic weapons, panzerfausts and "88's" was received from all sides.

In a room to room battle in one apartment house fifty enemy gave up. In the vicinity of Ruckert Strasse the troops discovered a storeroom of enemy machine guns and pistols which they blew up with demolitions. Desperate measures were taken by the enemy to destroy the supporting armor which moved through the streets. Panzerfausts were fired from top-story floors and roof tops at the American armor, but to the sorrow of the enemy, as the armor would wheel and practically blow them into the sky with rapid fire.

The Third Battalion on the Regiment's right also advanced into Nürnberg on the 18th and added its strength to the battle. In the bitter fighting which ensued, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan, the commander of the Second Battalion, Sergeant Roland P. Callahan and Private First Class Jarvis P. Williams of Company "G", Staff Sergeant Bennet O. Walker and Sergeant James K. Sullivan both of Company "L" displayed leadership and distinguished themselves.⁵⁹

The push down Ruckert Strasse was continued by the Second Battalion and at 0400, 19 April, forward elements reached the park near Wieland and Campe Routzer Strasses and the troops ran into a block covered by machine gun fire. Following rout of the enemy and removal of the block the troops advanced at dawn. Company "E", in the vicinity of Fromman Strasse became engaged in a stiff fight with enemy who were well emplaced along Graben Bucher Strasse behind the stone walls of the old city. The walls stood from ten to fifteen feet high and were twenty feet thick.

A bitter fight was fought in the sector of Nürnberg being attacked by the Seventh Infantry on 19 April 1945. Fanatical SS troops battled the "Cotton Balers" fiercely but in the end were defeated. Staff Sergeant Albert L. Flinner and Private First Class Vincent J. Mancuso, both of Company "C", and Private Cecil E. Mosley of Company "F" were among those who distinguished themselves in the fighting of that day.⁵⁹

During the night of 19-20 April, plans were made for a big artillery shoot on the old city for the next morning. Major Hugh A. Scott, Third Division G-2, reminded the Regiment that the next day, the 20th, was Adolf Hitler's birthday. He stated that the German Werewolf organization was expected to be active, with each member pledged to kill an American soldier.

The night of 19-20 April was the second night of siege on the city. Company "E" crossed Burgschmiet Strasse in the St. Johannis district and was hit on both flanks by machine gun and small arms fire, then was counter-attacked by German air corps personnel from the vicinity of Johannis Strasse. Two platoons of Company "F" rushed to support of "Easy" Company. The enemy was beaten off.

⁵⁶ GO No. 299, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 15 Aug. '45. Sgt. Weber was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁵⁷ Spelled Regnitz on some maps and Pegnitz on others.

⁵⁸ GOs No. 226, 235, 299, 326 & 339, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 & 29 June, 15 Aug., 5 & 17 Sept. '45. Sgt. Corbe was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. 1 Lt. Dal Molin, 1 Lt. Marck, S/Sgt. O'Kane, T/5 Self, Pvt. Melchor & Pvt. Shaw were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

On the right of the Second Battalion the First Battalion troops also engaged in bitter fighting with the enemy, as Nürnberg reverberated with the sound of the weapons of war and smouldered in its ruins. The Commanding Officer ordered Company "I" of the Third Battalion moved to the support of the First Battalion troops. At 0545 "Item" Company was at the Johannis Kirchhof.

In the early morning fighting of 20 April when all resistance outside the walls of the inner city of Nürnberg was cleared by the Seventh Infantry in its zone, Private First Class Abundio Castro and Private Stanley E. Spooner of Company "D", Private First Class Theodore W. Haley and Private Kenneth B. Hale of Company "G" were courageous.⁵⁹

7th INFANTRY ENTERS THE OLD WALLED CITY OF NÜRNBERG, 20 APRIL 1945

At 0640, 20 April, a loud speaker system was set up in the Seventh Infantry zone and the following message was transmitted in German to the enemy within the old city of Nürnberg:

Your city is completely surrounded and the old city has been entered in several places. People in the occupied part of the city are being treated humanely. Your unconditional surrender will be accepted under the following conditions: Raise white flags over the buildings and open all entrances to the inner city. Otherwise you will be destroyed. We will not wait, so act quickly.

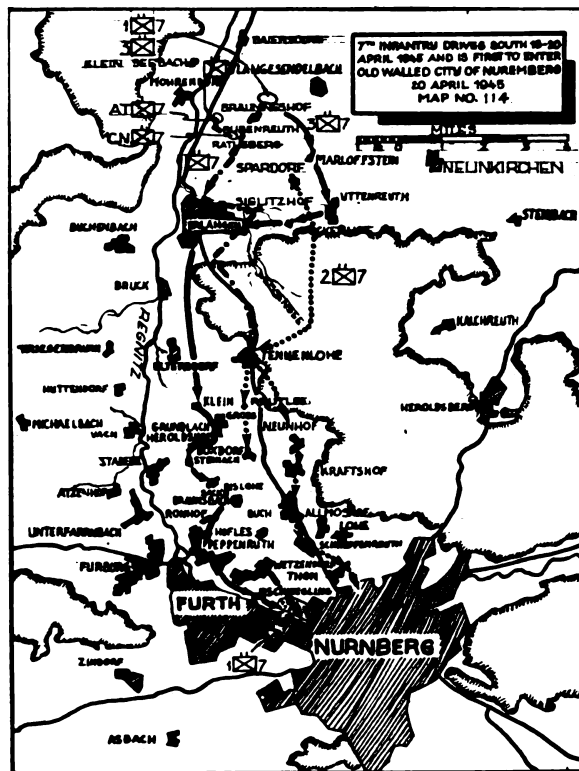
United States Allied Military Commander.

The enemy within the old city paid no heed to the broadcast. An M-12 assault gun of 155mm calibre, which operated with 3d and 45th Infantry Divisions during the Battle of Nürnberg had been made available to the Seventh Infantry during the night. It was sent to the First Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Wallace withdrew the First Battalion troops from the vicinity of the walls of the old city so the assault gun could fire direct at the wall and gates. Twenty rounds of the hard hitting big stuff were fired point-blank. But the old wall stood up under the terrific pounding with huge chips flying everywhere. But the Germans on the inside guarding the Johannis gate decided enough was enough. "Cotton Balers" made entrance to the old city through two small entrances on either side of the main vehicle entrance.

Company "E" of the Second Battalion, in the most favorable position, rushed through, shortly after nine o'clock, and was followed by the Red Battalion troops. By noontime the "Cotton Balers" were in the famed Adolf Hitler Platz. Soon the 15th Infantry which captured the large castle to the north and the 30th Infantry, which Regiment entered the old city from the northeast, were contacted and resistance came to an end. Officially resistance was ended in the Third Infantry Division sector north of Pegnitz at 1400 on 20 April 1945.

Nürnberg, "the most German of all cities", was in American hands. Actually the capture of the Nazi shrine city was a three division affair with the 3rd, 42nd and 45th Infantry Divisions putting on the squeeze. The main pressure in the city was exerted by the "Rock of the Marne" and "Thunderbird" Divisions, however, as the 42nd Infantry Division concentrated its efforts on the nearby, lesser city of Furth. The "Thunderbirds" had entered the city from the east and southeast as the "Cotton Balers", "Dragons" and "Frisicans", wearing the blue and white patch of the "Rock of the Marne", had entered from the northwest, north and northeast.

Nürnberg was located in the district of Franconia, Bavaria, or southwest Germany. The river Regnitz, a tributary of the Main, divided the city into two parts called the Lorenzer Seite and Sebalder Seite after two, old, historic churches. Four small islands dotted the river within the city and before the war no less than fourteen bridges spanned the waters of the Regnitz. Tourists had once flocked to the city to see the works of Holbein, Durer, Wohlgemuth and other masters in



an old Carthusian monastery which housed the National Museum of Germany. The 500,000 people who had once lived in the city were occupied in toy manufacture, and fancy ivory and woodwork.

Because of the unimpaired medieval aspect of the city and because Hitler admired Wagner who had composed many of his musical works there, Nürnberg was selected to be the shrine of the Nazi Party. In many respects it became the capital of the Third Reich even more than Berlin, München or Berchtesgaden. It became a distribution center for Nazi laws and propaganda. The numerous Nazi organizations met there. It was turned into a center for war. It was to a Nazi congress once meeting there that Hitler once said "Germany never will be conquered—either from without or within".

On 20 April 1945 American "doughboys" of the "Queen of Battles" saw nothing but destruction in Nürnberg which was a complete ruin, and smouldered from fires. The culture was gone.

⁵⁹ GOs No. 198, 208, 212, 226, 249, 256, 289, 299, 306, 326 & 370, HQ 3d Inf. Div., 7, 12, 16 & 24 June, 10 & 15 July, 5, 15 & 20 Aug., 5 Sept. & 4 Oct. '45. Lt. Col. Duncan & Pfc Williams were each awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal. S/Sgts. Flinner & Walker, Sgts. Callahan & Sullivan, Pfc's Castro, Haley & Mancuso, Pvts. Hale, Mosley & Spooner were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

"IRON MIKE" MAKES A SPEECH OF HIS OWN ON DER FUEHRER'S BIRTHDAY IN ADOLF HITLER PLATZ

While the three rifle regiments and their attachments had been fighting for Nürnberg members of the Commanding General's Headquarters had made preparations for a flag raising ceremony to be held in the city as soon as possible after the fighting was over. The Third Division Band was brought up from the rear echelon and held ready. It was Hitler's birthday and as there had always been a ceremony in the city on that day, each year, "Iron Mike" did not believe that the precedent should be broken. His plans were for a ceremony of far greater significance however. "Old Glory", the American "Stars and Stripes", were to be unfurled over the city.

The ceremony was originally slated for 1700 hours at the Castle which had been taken by the 15th Infantry, but when engineers went there to erect a flagpole they found the place unsuitable for the ceremony. Very little of the Castle was left. The scene of the ceremony was then shifted to the Adolf Hitler Platz which the gallant "Cotton Balers" had been first to reach that day. "Lady Luck" smiled on the Seventh Infantry once more when it was necessary to change the site for the ceremony.

Due to the situation existing, the destruction everywhere and the limited time of making the arrangements only three rifle platoons, one each from the three rifle regiments took part in the ceremony. The Third Division staff faced west and was flanked by four tanks and four tank destroyers. The rifle platoons faced east toward the Commanding General and his staff. In each corner of the platz a flakwagon was stationed. Colonel Heintges and a "Fox" Company Platoon were the representatives from the "Cotton Baler" Regiment.

At 1830 hours, where many a flaming torch had once burned in Adolf Hitler Platz in Der Fuehrer's honor, the important ceremony, which only a few were privileged to witness, was held. Collie Small, representing the Saturday Evening Post, was one of those few. His description, though a little colored, is quoted as follows:

The machine guns across the river chattered impatiently as the "doughs" from the other Infantry division worked their way along the rubble-strewn lanes twisting through the mountainous ruins of the old city. Progress had been slower over there, but in the half of the town that lay north of the river, the two regiments had met in the medieval square renamed Adolf Hitler Platz. The two-star general stood with his feet wide apart and scowled as he surveyed the debris he had conquered.

In front of the smoking cathedral, the two weary platoons stood at present arms while the general's eyes traveled down the line of smudged faces. The tanks facing each other from opposite sides of the square pointed their big guns out toward the sky like an arch of sabers at a military wedding. The general leaned forward, his hands clasped behind his back.

He rocked back and forth for a moment, then barked the first word, "Casablanca." The word crashed out of his mouth. "Palermo." The sinking sun caught the barrels of the men's rifles. "Anzio." The American flag remembered and stirred with the breeze. "Rome." The first sergeant with the two-day growth of beard thought about Rome and smiled. "The Vosges." The machine guns across the river spluttered again. "Nuremberg." The general paused and waved his hand at the ruins. Then he said it again, slowly, savoring each syllable, "Nuremberg."

He said something else—something about objectives taken and history written and gallant men and supreme sacrifices. The groundling Air Force major, who had come to Germany the easy way to assess bomb damage, and had never been shot at, shrugged his shoulders and said, "This is like something out of a bad movie." Everyone pretended not to hear him. The general finished speaking and the band swung into "Dogface Soldier", the rollicking division song that starts, "I wouldn't give a bean to be a fancy-pants Marine." Then the tanks coughed and the song was quickly lost in the roar of the big engines. The general saluted, briskly crossed the dusty

square, climbed into his jeep with the red leather seats and drove away. One by one, the tired doughs drifted out of Adolf Hitler Platz, up the hill and out through the sweet-smelling courtyard where the apple trees were in bloom and the four dead Germans lay turning to ivory.⁶⁰

On 21 April the Third Infantry Division relieved elements of the 45th Infantry Division in the southern half of the city and was responsible for all of Nürnberg. The Seventh Infantry was assigned the entire western half of the city, both north and south of the Pegnitz. That day a second military ceremony was held in the Adolf Hitler Platz with the Commanding General of the XV Corps being present. A small contingent of the Third Battalion represented the Seventh Infantry.

Through the medium of the Third Division's mimeographed "Daily News" sheet on 21 April, "Iron Mike" congratulated his troops for a job well done. His communique of that date to his fighting "Marnemen" is reprinted as follows:

OBJECTIVE TAKEN

MEN OF THE THIRD DIVISION:

Again you have taken all objectives. This time culminating in the capture of our section of this historic city and Nazi stronghold. This capture is symbolic of the downfall of Hitler and the Nazi Party.

You have fought well. We honor those of the Division who made the supreme sacrifice in our fight.

Now our job is to police the entire city of Nürnberg. We must make our might felt in our daily job of being firm and dignified in our relationships with the local German populace.

We are conquerors. We also represent a great nation. Let us conduct ourselves in such a manner as to show these people that we are great.

Fraternalizing is prohibited.

Pay attention to your job.

Keep alert.

Be as neat and clean as you can be under the circumstances.

Salute promptly and smartly.

In other words, you are the Third Division. That should be enough. My congratulations on a big job well done.

JOHN W. O'DANIEL,

Major General, U. S. Army

Commanding.

THE AMERICAN 7th ARMY COMMANDER REVIEWS 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION TROOPS IN NÜRNBERG STADIUM ON 22 APRIL 1945

On Sunday afternoon, 22 April 1945, Lieutenant General Alexander M. Patch, the great leader of the American 7th Army, in an impressive ceremony held in the famous Zeppelin Stadium of Nürnberg reviewed troops of his fighting Third Infantry Division and presented awards to various members for extraordinary heroism and gallantry in action. Five members of the division, all from the 15th and 30th Infantry Regiments, received the nation's highest valor award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.⁶¹ It was the first time in American military history that five members of one division had received the award at one ceremony.

Many additional awards were presented by Lieutenant General Patch. Colonel Heintges received the Legion of Merit Award and an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Bronze Star Medal. Technical Sergeant Bert A. Rodman of Company "D" received an Oak Leaf Cluster to his Silver

⁶⁰ Small: "The Third: Tops in Honors", Saturday Evening Post, 11 Aug. 1945, p. 28.

⁶¹ Recipients were Lt. Col. Ware, 1 Lt. Tominac of the 15th Infantry and T/Sgt. Dunham, S/Sgt. Adams & Pfc Ross of the 30th Infantry.

Star Medal and Private First Class John E. Mahony, Jr., of Company "C" received a Silver Star Medal.

Lieutenant General Patch made the presentations from the rostrum where Adolf Hitler once delivered his famous harangues. On the vast greensward stood a battalion from each of the three rifle regiments. They were commanded by Brigadier General Robert N. Young, Assistant Third Division Commander. The Second Battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Duncan represented the Seventh Infantry.

Behind Lieutenant General Patch stood the massive bronze twenty-foot Nazi swastika. Shortly before the ceremony it had been covered by a large American flag, and when the ceremony was over it was destroyed by a 200 pound TNT charge.

There were six huge bomb craters dotting the field, and a number of smaller shell holes pockmarked the green and concrete runways between the field and main stands. Part of the 200 flagpoles facing the main stands

were still standing, others had been lowered, but each was still topped with wreathed swastikas.

In his remarks the 7th Army Commander declared: "It is fitting that the Third Division should be standing in this stadium, birthplace of Nazism. The Third has played a momentous role in bursting the superman theory, expounded by the evil rascals of Nazism."

The Seventh Infantry continued to occupy the western half of Nürnberg until 23 April. Continuous patrols were conducted between the units, and the troops rested. Little trouble was experienced in the beaten city. However at 2030 on the 21st the First Battalion reported that one of its patrols had been fired on by snipers. The patrol then flushed out four SS troops who were caught and questioned. The Germans then attempted an escape. While running they were fired upon by the patrol and all four killed. At noontime on the 22nd the First Battalion reported an SS captain had been captured that morning and also killed when he attempted to escape.

CHAPTER V

The Battle of Augsburg

In the morning of 23 April Companies "E" and "F" and a part of Company "H" were transported by the 10th Field Artillery Battalion to the vicinity of Rothenburg and then moved to Zöbingen.

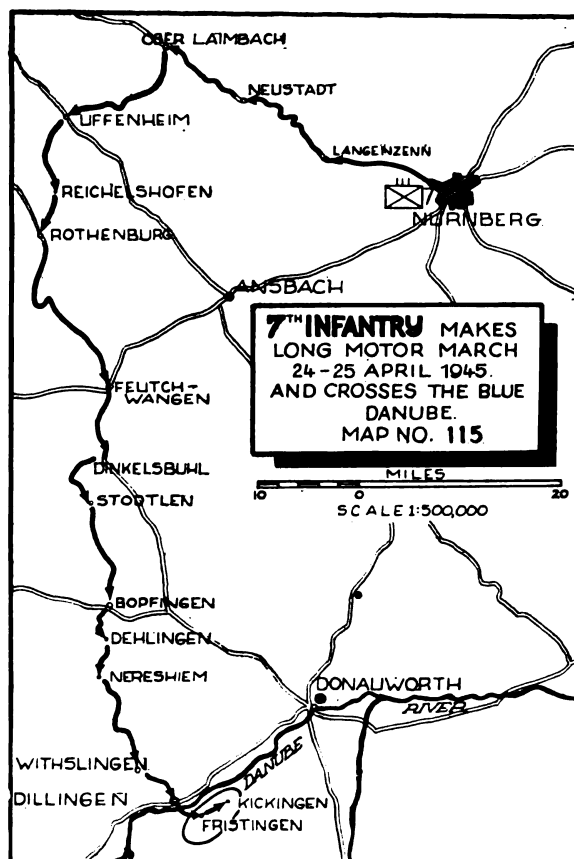
At 1300 the 319th Infantry of the 80th Infantry Division commenced relief of the Seventh Infantry of occupational duties in Nürnberg. The relief was completed in three hours time and command of the sector passed to the new unit.

7th INFANTRY MAKES LONG MOTOR MARCH MARCH 24-25 APRIL 1945

At 0700, 24 April, the Seventh Infantry commenced its longest motor march of the campaign. About 160 miles were covered as the 7th Regimental Combat Team crossed the Blue Danube at Dillingen and assembled in the vicinity of Frisingen and Kickingen during the night and next morning. Because of the numerous destroyed bridges the Regiment had been forced to make great detours.

On 25 April the headquarters of General Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the disintegration of the German Army. The six American armies, two British, one Canadian, and one French were smashing all resistance before them. On the 19th the 3rd American Army had entered Czechoslovakia and thus split Germany in two. The 9th American Army had captured Magdeburg, Elbe River citadel, while the First American Army was in Leipzig, also on that day. Nürnberg, as already told, had been completely taken on the 20th by the American 7th Army forces. The whereabouts of the American 15th Army was not announced. As the Russians encircled Berlin and a link-up with American forces was imminent, British forces pushed into Bremen. Germany's second largest seaport. In the south Stuttgart had also

been cleared as the Allied forces drove farther south. In Italy the American 5th and British 8th were advancing.



SEVEN ALLIED ARMIES RACE FOR THE NATIONAL REDOUBT AND BERCHTESGADEN

Following its entry into Czechoslovakia, Lieutenant General Patton's American 3rd Army wheeled south and headed for München. After the fall of Nürnberg, Lieutenant General Patch's 7th American Army drove south for the Danube and the objectives south of it. On the right flank the First French Army under General d'Armée de Lattre de Tassigny had reached the Swiss border at Lake Constance and was driving east for Berchtesgaden. On the far Southern Front the American 5th Army commanded by Lieutenant General Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., and the British 8th Army were across the Po River and driving north. From the east the 2nd and 3rd Ukrainian Armies of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were driving across Austria for the Redoubt and Berchtesgaden.

A race was developing between the seven armies to see which would penetrate the Redoubt first and capture Berchtesgaden, the prize of all military objectives at that time. Each day newspapers carried articles pertaining to Berchtesgaden and the Redoubt. It had always been a subject for news writers but more than ever was the place in the public eye. The following were two articles that appeared in papers concerning the Bavarian Mountain retreat:

BERCHTESGADEN "TEST TUBE" IS NEARLY FINISHED

LONDON, April 15—(UP)—Adolf Hitler has almost completed his "laboratory test tube" in which he hopes the germ of national socialism can be preserved after the end of the war, emerging in the future as strong as ever to conquer the world.

This test tube is the Fortress of Berchtesgaden, possibly more important politically than militarily, which is described in a number of sober analytical articles in Swiss newspapers reaching London.

Hitler, it is stated, admits that the Allied armies will meet soon west of Berlin and has almost completed construction of his mountain stronghold, with Obersalzberg as its center.

FOR FANATICAL FIGHT

It will be used, the articles assert in the immediate future as a fortress for a fanatical fight. Hitler cannot imagine a democratic world and refuses to believe that an Allied victory will produce anything but quarrels among powers jostling for supremacy.

He believes that after a short period in which Allied military might keeps antagonistic forces under control there will follow a "state of tremendous chaos, a wild witches' cauldron of unrestrained appetite for power, of disappointed hopes for the masses, of social unrest and cruel civil wars," the Swiss articles said.

In this fertile breeding ground of war, Hitler believes the forces of Nazism can revive and finally succeed in dominating the world. Until this can be accomplished they will be able to remain alive in the Bavarian Fortress.

IMPASSABLE MOUNTAINS

Virtually impassable mountains have been turned into a system of pillboxes and anti-aircraft positions connected with caverns and salt mine shafts which have been enlarged to supply depots, the articles said. The Nazis also have built themselves comfortable quarters.

Refugees from Northern Germany have been denied entrance to the Region in order to keep the installations, allegedly included, completely integrated aircraft factories, synthetic oil plants. Material and food already have been collected.

To make the position of the Allies even worse when organized resistance in Germany finally crumbles, the articles said. Hitler has ordered retreating SS troops to scorch the earth of the Fatherland, thus hastening the creation of the chaos.⁶²

RAF BLASTS HITLER'S DEN

LONDON, April 25—(AP)—Adolf Hitler's mountain chalet at Berchtesgaden, SS barracks on the grounds, and his mountain refuge on top of the Kehlstein, five miles from the

chalet, were attacked between 9 and 10 a. m. today by 12,000 pound bombs unloaded by separate forces of RAF Lancasters.

TIRPITZ-TYPE BOMBS

The Lancasters attacking Hitler's hideout unloaded six-ton bombs of the type which sank the battleship Tirpitz. The bombs, which were supplemented by other heavy explosives, were timed to bore deep into the earth before detonating. Two Lancasters are missing.

There was no official suggestion that the attacks were planned to catch Hitler in his hideaway, but it was pointed out unofficially that there was always that possibility. The United Press quoted an aerial gunner as saying he saw a six-ton bomb make a terrific flash on Hitler's chalet.⁶³

(German broadcasts have reported that Hitler was in Berlin, directing the encircled capital's defense.)

While Hitler's mountain retreat was being assaulted, more than one thousand American warplanes blasted targets within twenty-five miles of Berchtesgaden.⁶⁴

Following the capture of Nürnberg when the Third Infantry Division was detached from the XV Corps and placed in 7th Army reserve to garrison the city of Nürnberg, other divisions of the 7th Army continued the drive south. The 12th Armored Division led the way and was followed by the 4th Infantry Division and others. The enemy withdrew to the south of the Danube and blew all bridges over the river but one, which was seized intact at Dillingen by the 12th Armored, or "Hellcat", Division, before the enemy could destroy it.

The Danube at Dillingen is about 200 feet wide. The bridge is a concrete two-way structure 250 yards long, including the approaches. No one had expected the bridge or any other bridge over the Danube to be taken intact. The capture of the bridge made possible an earlier attack on the Redoubt and no doubt saved the "Cotton Balers" another river crossing.

As the 12th Armored Infantry protected the bridgehead and the 4th and 63rd Infantry Divisions continued to advance toward the Danube, Lieutenant General Patch called the "Rock of the Marne" Division out of reserve and placed it in the XXI Corps, which was to attack next to the XV Corps for Augsburg and München with all possible speed. Thus the reason for the short stay in Nürnberg after its capture and the long motor march by the Seventh Infantry on 24-25 April.

In the rapid race that was developing the Seventh Infantry of the Third Infantry Division was to once more distinguish itself by being first into Augsburg, first into München, first into Salzburg, Austria, and to capture Berchtesgaden all by itself in a "military steal" that will go down in history as one of the greatest thefts of all time.

When one considers the large number of units operating against the Redoubt in late April of 1945 he must realize that the accomplishments of the Seventh Infantry were outstanding. In his 7th Army alone Lieutenant General Patch had more than nine divisions. The 3rd, 4th, 42nd, 45th, 63rd, 100th and 103rd Infantry Divisions, the 10th and 12th Armored Infantry Divisions and the 101st and 106th Cavalry Groups, were those known to be among his forces on the 26th. The other armies consisted of many divisions. Each division was made up of three rifle regiments besides numerous other units. Of all those separate units, "Lady Luck" was to smile on the Seventh Infantry or "Cotton Baler" Regiment once more.

⁶² "The Stars and Stripes", 16 April 1945.

⁶³ The gunner was mistaken. The 7th Infantry discovered on 4 May '45 when it captured Berchtesgaden that the hideaway was never hit by a bomb though many had struck nearby.

⁶⁴ "Stars and Stripes", 26 April '45.



Map No. 116, "East, West, South—Allies Tighten the Squeeze on Germans," from the "Stars and Stripes," 21 April 1945.

On 24 April the Third Infantry Division issued instructions for the attack on Augsburg.⁶⁵ The night of 25-26 April the 7th and 15th Infantries were to attack "rapidly and aggressively" in their zones and capture Augsburg. The Seventh on the left had first to force a crossing of the Lech River and Wertach Canal before swinging south on the city.

Colonel Heintges issued his instructions on the 25th.⁶⁶ The First and Third Battalions, under Major Gerald A. Desrosier and Captain Robert V. Horton respectively, were to open the attack with the main effort on the right, in the First Battalion zone. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's Second Battalion was initially to be in reserve but to be committed early and play the important role in the capture of Augsburg. Anti-Tank Company was ordered to be prepared to block principal approaches to the Regimental zone from the northeast and for employment as a "bazooka" company. The Detachment of Battery "B" 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, was directed to take battery positions north of the Third Battalion assembly area for indirect fire mis-

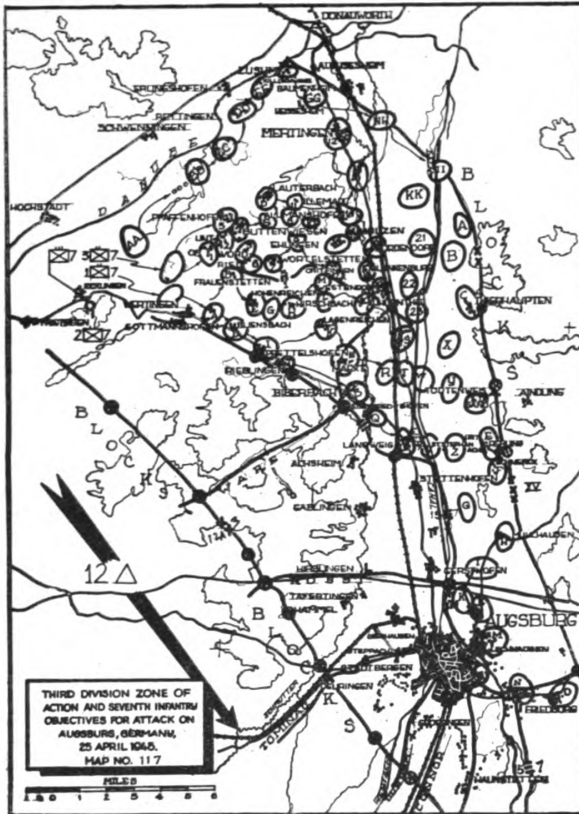
sions and be prepared to dispatch one or two flakwagons to support road blocks to be established by Anti-Tank Company. The Platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the Regiment, was ordered to push vigorous motorized patrols to the left flank of Objectives (AA), (BB), (CC), (DD), (EE), (FF), (GG) and (HH) on order of the Commanding Officer. Companies "A" of the 756th Tank Battalion and 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion were to send the normal detachments to the rifle battalions.

Special instructions of the Commanding Officer to the assault battalions were that the commanders would coordinate within their zones the advances of their elements so as to permit a two-company assault on any objective. Each battalion was to coordinate its attack so as to support, if necessary, the attack of the flank battalion.

⁶⁵ Operations Instruction No. 59, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Kirkingen, Germany, 24 April '45.

⁶⁶ Operations Instruction No. 40, HQ, 7th Infantry, 25 April '45.

Upon seizure of an objective, strong patrols were to be pushed immediately to the next objective. The First Battalion was directed to maintain physical contact with elements of the 15th Infantry on the right at contact points R-5, R-6, R-9, R-13 and R-17. Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion, was directed to attach one platoon each to the assault battalions prepared for the removal of road blocks, demolitions and mines. Assault boats to be used in crossing the Lech River and Wertach Canal were to be held with the remainder of the company in readiness.



New attachments which joined the Regiment late in the day, 25 April, were Companies "A" and "B", 48th Engineer Battalion, Second Platoon of Company "C", 353rd Searchlight Battalion, and one platoon of Company "B", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion.

THE BATTLE OF AUGSBURG. 25-27 APRIL 1945

At 1800 on 25 April the troops of the assault battalions started moving to the forward assembly areas near Wertingen and Reitenhof. H-Hour was established as 2100.

Due to the tardiness of the supporting tanks the jump-off was delayed. The Red Battalion under Major Desrosier went into the attack at 2120 while the Blue Battalion commanded by Captain Horton jumped off at 2130 in the night.

Initially the First Battalion met no resistance. At 2350 it was reported that Gottmannshofen, Objective "A", was cleared and that "Baker" Company was moving to the north on Fraunstettin, Objective "B", while "Charlie" Company was moving on Bliensbach, Objec-

tive "D". At 0300, 26 April, "Baker" Company commanded by First Lieutenant Aldo F. Dal Molin, was in control of Fraunstettin with ten prisoners in hand. The company kept moving during the night and at 0705 in the morning was on Hohenreichen, Objective "E", with fifty Germans held as prisoners, while "Charlie" Company led by Captain Victor M. Morris was in Bliensbach. At 0845 Company "C" had reached Prettelshofen, Objective "I". Company "B" continued on and at 0940 had cleared Bossenried, Objective "G", then reported Hirschbach, Objective "H", cleared at 1009.

ANZIO VETERANS ARE LIBERATED

For the Blue Battalion, Companies "I" and "K" were the assault companies. Initially they met no resistance and at 2320 that night "King" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Herman Ramer reported Ob Thurheim, Objective 1, all clear, then at 2340 Unt Thurheim, Objective 2, free of enemy. At Unt Thurheim, after a short fire fight, about 150 Germans were captured, and 52 American prisoners of war were liberated. They had been captured by the enemy way back in Italy on the Anzio Beachhead and had once belonged to the 3rd, 34th and 45th Infantry Divisions. There was much rejoicing on their part when freedom came at last. In telling of it Private Frank Parco, one of the freed men, said: "When I saw those guys out of the window, my knees started to knock and I didn't know whether to jump or fly. Everybody was out in the street hugging and slapping each other, and I even kissed the first Infantryman I saw, because I had been swearing for the last fourteen months that I would do so."

At 0055 "Item" Company, commanded by First Lieutenant Eli Levy, was in Pfaffenhofen, then at 0235 was in Bittenwiesen while "King" Company had advanced to Vord Ried, Objective 4. At 0600 "King" Company was reported in strength on Objective 6, Hint Ried, and was sending a patrol to Wortelstettin. The company cleared Wortelstettin by 0800 and moved for Neuweiler, Objective 9. By 1055 Company "I" had advanced through the patch of woods and cleared Lauterbach.

Meanwhile the platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, performed its mission of screening the left flank of the Regiment. At 2040 that night the platoon reported itself on Objective (DD), Rettingen, receiving small arms, panzerfaust and mortar fire. Five prisoners of war had been seized. The platoon remained on Objective (DD) until daylight when it continued the advance. At 1110 it was reported through Objective (FF).

The Regimental Battle Patrol performed the mission of maintaining contact with the reconnaissance platoon and patrolling between the assault battalions. The Second Battalion which was held in mobile reserve moved from Kicklingen to Wertingen at 0100 and bivouacked for the remainder of the night.

RED AND BLUE BATTALIONS CONTINUE THE ADVANCE

Resistance increased somewhat but progress continued to be made on 26 April. Major Desrosier committed "Able" Company which at 1325 was on Objective "J", Rieblingen, and received small arms fire from woods 1,000 yards to the south. Successful attacks by units of Company "A" led by Sergeants James D. Crowe and Melvin F. Nussbaum eliminated enemy strongpoints.⁶⁷ By 1430 Company "B" and Fertingen, Objective "L",

in hand. Company "C" captured Langenreichen at 1535 and was on Markt, meeting no opposition at 1900. Company "A" drove due east, crossed the Schmutter River and at 2110 reported itself on Objective "R", the town of Erlingen. Enemy who had been chased out of the town directed artillery fire on the "Able" Company troops there. During the advance Private First Class Howard L. Stevens of Company "D", while on forward reconnaissance, was wounded in action but secured valuable information which enabled Company "C" to overcome an obstacle.⁶⁷

For the Third Battalion, Company "I" cleared Objectives 14, 13 and 12, or the towns of Allmanshofen, Druisheim and Mertingen. Three 150mm guns on stationary mounts, which had given the troops trouble, were captured at Druisheim. "King" Company seized Objectives 11 and 10, the little towns of Illemad, Maiershof and Greggerhof. "Love" Company under the leader-



2 Lt. Ralph E. Leuze, Co. "A", was killed in action on 26 April 1945.

ship of First Lieutenant Sherman W. Pratt captured Objectives 16, 17 and 15, the towns of Ehingen, Orlfingen and Holzen. When the troops had neared Holzen the enemy blew the bridge over the Schmutter River. A total of 111 Germans were captured by the Blue Battalion forces up to noontime on the 26th. "King" Company seized a bridge intact over the Schmutter near Allmanshofen. Nordendorf, or Objective 19, was partially occupied by a platoon of Company "L" at 1735.

THIRD DIVISION CHANGES SCHEME OF MANEUVER AND BOUNDARIES

On 26 April the Third Division Headquarters opened in Wertingen at 1930. The commander issued new instructions,⁶⁸ which changed the Third Division scheme of maneuver and boundaries so that the weight of the division attack would be thrown to the west of the Lech River and Werk Canal in the direction of Augsburg. The boundary between the attacking regiments was moved farther to the west so that Augsburg was directly before the Seventh Infantry zone of attack. The 30th Infantry was ordered to come out of division reserve and be prepared to exploit the crossings over the Lech River and Werk Canal seized by the Seventh Infantry and to assume a mission east of those waterways.

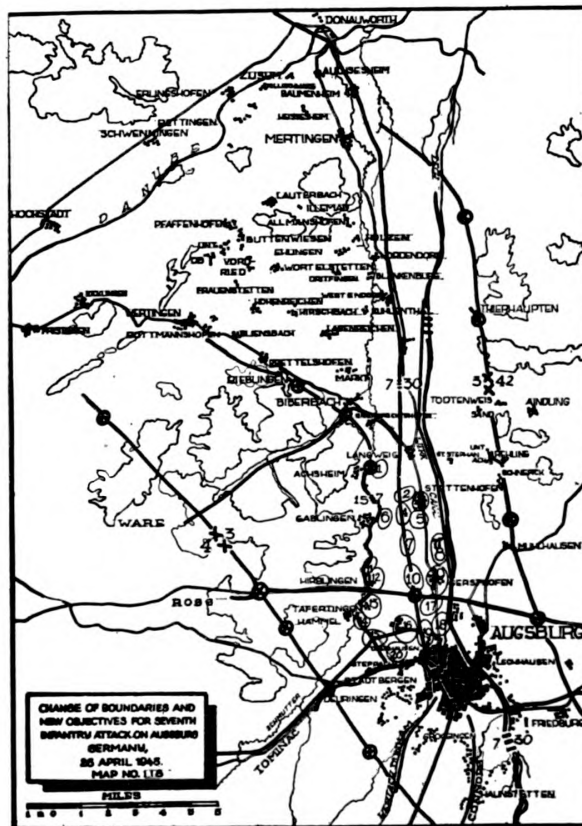
As a result of the new instructions Colonel Heintges drew new objectives on his situation map and prepared to throw the Second Battalion into the fray. The troops continued their efforts during the night of 26-27 April. "Love" Company cleared the towns of Westendorf, Ellgau, Ostendorf and Waltershofen. Seventeen prisoners of war were seized after a brief fire fight as machine gun and flakwagon fire were received from east of the Werk Canal. In the morning, five German officers and 45 enlisted men were captured near Ellgau.

The First Platoon of the Third Reconnaissance Troop became attached to the Regiment during the morning of 27 April and with a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol reinforced the platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, in the vicinity of Heissesheim. Those elements in conjunction with Company "I" overcame the resistance, in and around Mertingen.

SECOND BATTALION IS COMMITTED AND LEADS THE THIRD DIVISION INTO AUGSBURG

The Second Battalion which had remained in Regimental reserve at the beginning of the operation south of the Danube, seized Herbertshofen the morning of 27 April and at 0900 sent "Fox" Company in the attack for Langweid. Objective U. The remainder of the battalion followed in support.

Company "F" encountered enemy artillery fire and the lead platoon became dispersed. Second Lieutenant William E. Marlar reorganized his scattered platoon and moved it forward through sniper fire into Langweid. He directed his men in an attack which wounded two Germans, captured ten and drove the rest out of town. Later while engaged in reconnaissance, he observed twelve "88's" in position 500 yards away. Dispatching a runner to guide up friendly armor, he deployed his men to cut off the enemy personnel. Several minutes



⁶⁷ GOs No. 262, 313 & 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 18 July, 27 Aug. & 5 Sept. '45. Sgts. Crowe & Nussbaum & Pfc Stevens were each awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁶⁸ Operations Instruction No. 62, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Wertingen, Germany, 26 April '45.

men to cut off the enemy personnel. Several minutes after tanks arrived and opened fire, the Germans attempted to flee but the skillfully set trap forced ten of the enemy to surrender.⁶⁹ By 1130 Company "F" commanded by First Lieutenant Willis B. Conklin had control of the town. Small arms and mortar fire were received from the woods to the north and east.

Acting on information obtained from an enemy soldier that he captured, Staff Sergeant Orie H. Tilseth, of Company "F", organized a six-man patrol to raid a German concentration camp. After routing eight Germans, he led his men to within 50 yards of the camp. Then, skillfully deploying his men, he surprised approximately 30 enemy guards and took them prisoners. As a result of Staff Sergeant Tilseth's leadership an estimated 200 political prisoners were released.⁷⁰

"George" Company commanded by Second Lieutenant John Ananich moved to the right of "Fox" and together the companies attacked south at 1415. Objectives 1 and 2 were cleared by 1510 as the "Cotton Balers" of "Fox" Company overran ten 105mm anti-aircraft guns by direct assault. Forty-five minutes later Stettenhofen, the Bahnhof-Gablingen and Objective 5 were cleared by Company "F". Company "G" drove on and by 1645 had cleared Objective 6. Resistance consisted mostly of sniper fire, booby traps and some light shelling from across the Lech River. Short sharp fire fights were held in the various towns.

The First Battalion moved through the right of the Regimental zone. At 2250, 27 April, "Able" Company had taken Hirblingen, Objective 12, and was fighting for Tafertingen, Objective 13, which was captured however at 2330. By 0145 Company "A" had driven on and cleared a patch of woods designated as Objective 14, as well as Neusass, Objective 15. The Red troops were close to Augsburg but they were too late, the White Battalion troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan were already in the city. In a telephonic conversation with the Commanding Officer at 0020, 28 April, Lieutenant Colonel Duncan reported one of his companies was clearing up Oberhausen, Objective 19, but another company had driven on and passed the city limits into Augsburg. Before the conversation was completed the line went out. But in ten minutes the line was in again and Lieutenant Colonel Duncan reported that all his fighting units were below the 82 grid line, or nothing, and many prisoners, who had not wished to fight, were being held. Patrols were then going through Augsburg to determine the situation and to contact the Burgomeister or military commander. Company "G", he reported, was engaged in a fire fight along the railroad tracks below Oberhausen. At 0038 Colonel Heintges reported to the Commanding General: "We have elements of two companies in the big town in a block of apartment houses."

The German troops and civilians in Augsburg did not desire to put up a fight and wished to surrender as soon as possible. Lieutenant Colonel Duncan contacted the Burgomeister who expressed willingness to surrender the city and further stated the commanding general of the German military forces also wished to surrender. The German military commander was not to be found in the hours of darkness and very early morning. As it turned out he was in the southwestern portion of the city and surrendered eventually to 15th Infantry forces who advanced from the west and entered Augsburg from "the back door", so to speak, some time after the Seventh Infantry had passed through the "front entrance". But as there was no fighting in the city, and white flags of surrender flew from every window it did not matter. Whenever German troops were met they surrendered without further ado.

The Seventh Infantry once more established a first by leading the Third Division into Augsburg. The whereabouts of the leading 15th Infantry elements at the time the lead troops of the Seventh Infantry entered Augsburg may be determined from study of the official 15th Infantry reports as published in the Third Division reports of operations.⁷¹

During the operation of 25-28 April 1945 when the Seventh Infantry pushed into Augsburg, only a small unknown number of enemy were killed but 827 German soldiers including 28 officers were taken prisoners. Ten 105mm anti-aircraft and three 150mm guns were captured as well as the chemical factory at Stauweiher. This was accomplished at a cost of four killed in action and one so seriously wounded that he died of his wounds a few days later. Battle casualty reports show that only 13 were wounded in the action. Those who made the supreme sacrifice were Second Lieutenant Ralph E. Leuze and Technical Sergeant Walter M. Clarke of Company "A", Private Robert Haeni of First Battalion Headquarters, Private Peter Nuttall of Company "K" and Private First Class Harry E. Frank, Jr., of Company "E".

⁶⁹ GO No. 326, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 5 Sept. '45. 2 Lt. Marlar was awarded the Silver Star Medal.

⁷⁰ GO No. 187, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 30 May '45. S/Sgt. Tilseth was awarded the 1st Oak Leaf Cluster to the Silver Star Medal.

⁷¹ At 0135 on 28 April a telephone call was received at the Seventh Infantry War Room from the 15th Infantry Command Post (7th Infantry Journal Notes, 28 April '45). At that time Seventh Infantry elements were in the northern section of Augsburg. The 15th Infantry desired to know if the Seventh Infantry had troops at 308805, the coordinate location of Kriegshaber. The "Dragon" Regiment desired to direct an artillery shoot on the town. At that time, then, the 15th Infantry troops were 2000 yards, more or less, from Augsburg.

The 15th Infantry elements did not enter Augsburg until at least six hours after troops of the 7th Infantry's Second Battalion, but when they did enter they found the German military commander who surrendered to them. The approximate time of the 15th Infantry entry is established by the official report of the 15th Infantry itself and is quoted as follows: "At the beginning of the period the First Battalion was in Regimental reserve, and on the afternoon of 27 April was committed on the right flank. Aystettin (Y248828) was cleared by 1645. Company "C" attacked Hainhofer (Y266808) and then Schlipshelm (Y258699). Dearingen (Y285785) was cleared and Company "A" moved to Leitershofen (Y298770) where they encountered resistance from flak and artillery fire and small arms. This resistance was overcome by 0545B and the advance continued to the Wertach River. After taking Goggingen (Y325765), the First Battalion entered and began clearing Augsburg. Co. "E", 2nd Bn, overcame resistance from artillery, self-propelled and small arms at Gablingen (Y283888) at 1700B and Co. G cleared Achsheim. The Bn assembled and moved to Steppach (Y290800) at 0700B, and followed the route of the 3rd Bn into Augsburg. At close of the period the Bn crossed the bridge at (Y371779) and was attacking toward Friedberg (Y403780). The 3d Bn continued the advance to the southeast clearing the towns of Edenbergen, Batzenhofen, Westheim and Stadtbergen by 280500. A task force from the 3d Bn passed through elements of the 7th Infantry at Kriegshaber and entered Augsburg securing bridges at Y327788 and Y336783 at 280625B". (G-3 Report No. 118, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 28 April '45).

From the above quoted report of the 15th Infantry it will be noted that its first elements to enter Augsburg were its 1st Bn and a task force from its 3d Bn. Its 1st Bn did not overcome its resistance in Leitershofen, a town 2000 yards southwest of the nearest city limit, until 0545 the morning of 28 April. Therefore by the fairest estimate possible it could not have entered the city until sometime after 0600. The 15th Infantry task force entered the city at about 0600 on 28 April, or a little after, as, according to the report, it was at 0625 it secured bridges over the Wertach within the western limits of the city. The 7th Infantry elements passed through in Kriegshaber were elements of the 1st Bn which were not the most forward elements of even that battalion. The 15th Infantry 2n Bn was still in Steppach at 0700 on 28 April.

The Race Into Munchen

29-30 APRIL 1945

The Third Infantry Division wasted no time in Augsburg. Instructions were issued during the day of 28 April for the 15th Infantry to relieve the Seventh in the city of Augsburg and assume garrison duties while in reserve.⁷² The 30th Infantry which had come up behind the Seventh Infantry to Gersthofen and during the early hours of darkness of 28 April had crossed the Lech River under some artillery fire, then proceeded south to seize Lechhausen by noontime and went on to Friedberg, was to be the friendly rival in the race for München or Munich. The Third Division, then in the XXI Corps, was assigned the southern portion of München. Anti-Tank Company was ordered released to the 15th Infantry to assist in occupying Augsburg. The Seventh Infantry was to assemble in the northwestern edge of Augsburg and cross over the Lech to Friedberg by bridge and pass through right elements of the 30th Infantry at 0630, 29 April.

THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION PASSES TO XV CORPS, 28 APRIL 1945

Before the "7th Light Foot" actually showed its heels to Augsburg to overhaul and pass through the 30th Infantry and sprint into München first, the Third Infantry Division was relieved of attachment to XXI Corps and attached to XV Corps as of 2225B, 28 April 1945. It was to continue its advance, however, with the utmost speed and capture the southern portion of München.⁷³

Overwhelming power was to be used in the seizure of the city made famous by Hitler's "putsch" in 1923, at the Rosenheim Strasse beer hall. On the left of the "Rock of the Marne" Division the 42nd and 45th Infantry Divisions were to advance in assigned zones. The 20th Armored Infantry Division was to operate in conjunction with the 3rd, 42nd and 45th Divisions and in cooperation attack München. On the far left the 106th Cavalry Group had the mission of protecting XV Corps' left flank in the area north and northeast of München. On the right of the "Rock of the Marne" Division the 4th Infantry Division, 12th Armored Infantry Division and the 101st Cavalry Group were to advance and isolate München on the south.

PLANS OF THE 7th INFANTRY FOR DASH INTO MÜNCHEN

Colonel Heintges and his staff drew up instructions to cover the new operation. With his eye on München, the Commanding Officer carefully outlined the plan to be followed.⁷⁴

The Third Battalion reinforced was formed into a mobile task force called Task Force Horton after the commander, Captain Robert V. Horton. The Commanding Officer directed Task Force Horton to attack in the right of the Regimental zone and use the main highway to proceed with all possible speed. If necessary, the weight of the entire force was to be used to break resistance along the route as soon as possible. All known enemy positions adjacent to the route of advance were to be by-passed so that Objectives "W" and "X" could be captured preparatory to an entry into München.

Besides the Third Battalion troops and a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, elements of all the attachments comprised Task Force Horton. Order of battle for the force consisted of a Reconnaissance Spearhead, an Advance Guard and the Main Body. The Reconnaissance Spearhead of Task Force Horton consisted of a section of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol, a platoon of the Reconnaissance Company, 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, a platoon of light tanks from Company "D", 756th Tank Battalion, and a platoon of medium tanks from Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion.

The Advance Guard consisted of Company "L" mounted on the armor of two platoons of medium tanks of Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, one platoon of destroyers of Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, and one tank dozer of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion.

The Main Body of Task Force Horton consisted of the remainder of the Third Battalion, Battery "B", 10th Field Artillery Battalion, three assault guns of the 756th Tank Battalion Headquarters, two flakwagons of Battery "B", 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, and a platoon of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion. The riflemen were to ride on the battalion's organic transportation reinforced by twelve "DUKWS" and six 1½-ton trucks of Anti-Tank Company.

Behind Task Force Horton the First Battalion was directed to advance and mop up all by-passed enemy resistance and maintain contact with the 4th Infantry Division on the right.

The left of the Regimental zone was entrusted to the Second Battalion which was reinforced by two platoons of Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, one platoon of Company "B", 99th Chemical Mortar Battalion, and a platoon of Company "A", 10th Engineer Battalion. The White Battalion troops were to advance in their zone, destroy all enemy encountered, capture assigned objectives and maintain contact with the 30th Infantry on the left.

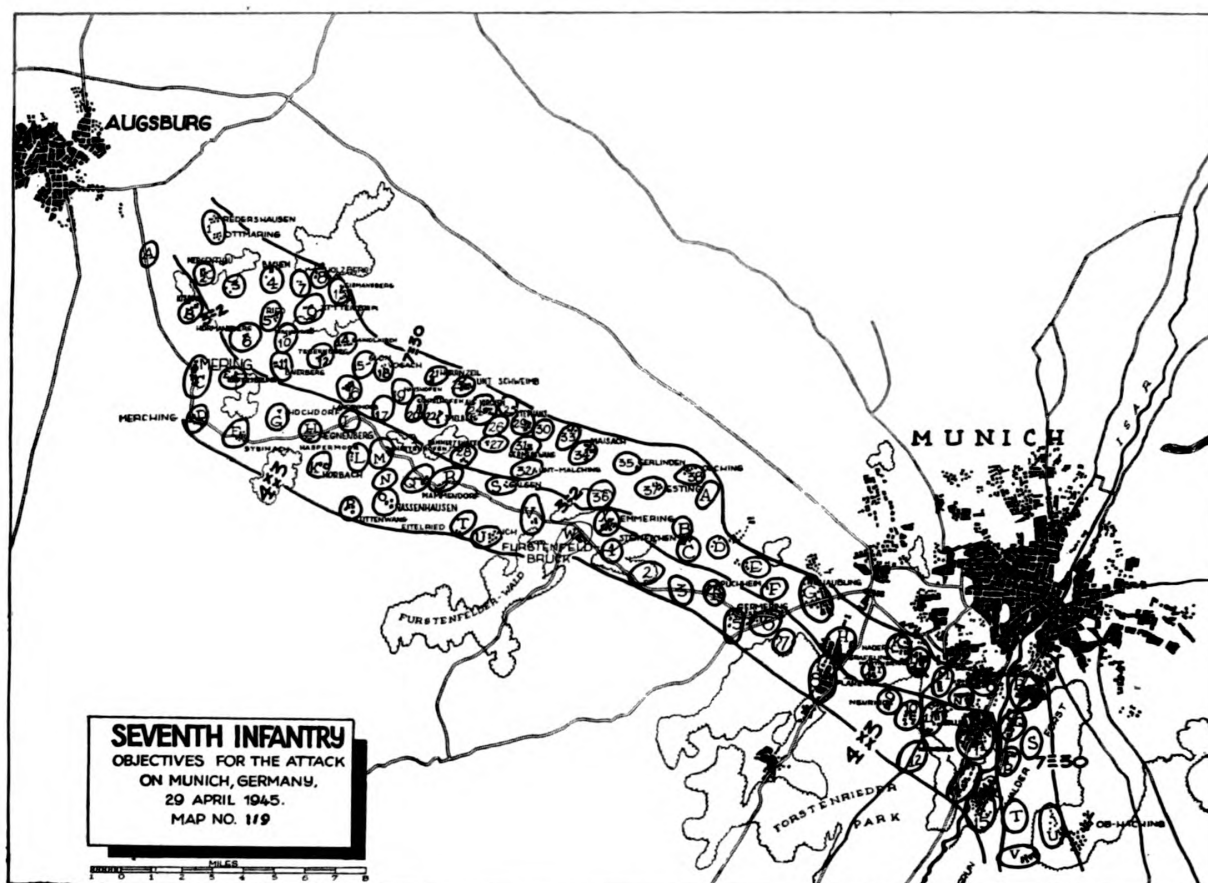
The 10th Field Artillery Battalion, minus Battery "B", was to render normal support to the Regiment during the operation while Cannon Company was ordered to follow the advance of the Second Battalion and be prepared to fire normal support missions in the Regimental zone with emphasis on the left.

The Commanding Officer issued special instructions for Task Force Horton. The armored Spearhead was to engage any hostile resistance aggressively and continue on its mission as soon as the resistance should weaken. The Advance Guard was to reinforce the Spearhead at the earliest possible moment to assist in reducing the resistance and bring about the uninterrupted advance of the Spearhead. Colonel Heintges stressed the point that

⁷² Operations Instruction No. 64, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Lauterbrunn, Germany, 28 April '45. "Special Instructions", HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Oberhausen, Germany, 28 April '45.

⁷³ Operations Instruction No. 65, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Oberhausen, Germany, 29 April '45.

⁷⁴ Operations Instruction No. 41, HQ, 7th Infantry, 28 April '45.



it was absolutely essential that the armor be deployed on a broad front and that all weapons be utilized to clear resistance. The Spearhead and the Advance Guard were to proceed with the utmost speed. Motorized elements of the Main Body were to advance by bounds behind the Advance Guard and drop off sufficient troops to mop up by-passed resistance along the route. Prisoners of war captured by Task Force Horton were to be disarmed and left along the main axis to be picked up by the First Battalion. Only a minimum of personnel were to be left to guard prisoners of war. Task Force Horton was to maintain normal radio communication while the First and Second Battalions were to maintain both telephone and radio communication.

TASK FORCE HORTON DRIVES TO AMPER RIVER, 29 APRIL 1945

At 0630, 29 April, the Seventh Infantry pressed the attack to the southeast for München. Resistance was sporadic and light and consisted mostly of blocks, blown bridges and small arms fire.

Task Force Horton on the right ran into small skirmishes against small arms fire and in one place an anti-tank gun, but pressed through all resistance. Staying on the main road the force passed rapidly through Lindenau, Mering, Merching, Steinach, Hegnenberg, Hattenhofen and Mammendorf to Fürstenfeld-Brück on the Amper River. The river was passed over but the force was held up at 2040 by a huge crater and a blown water main under the railroad overpass just beyond the Amper River.

The First Battalion, again under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Wallace, followed Task Force Horton. In addition to clearing the towns passed through by the on-rushing task force the Red Battalion cleared Kissling, Riefersbrunn, Horbach, Haspemoor, Luttenwang, Nassenhausen, Loitershofen, Eitelsried, Galgen, Aich, and Puch, then moved into Fürstenfeld-Brück. No opposition was encountered.



Capt. Joseph E. Martin and 1 Lt. Dante A. Conte of the Second Battalion pose for a photo in a German village during the closing days of the campaign.

The Second Battalion cleared the entire left or northern zone of the Regimental sector by itself, with the troops marching the entire distance. By noon on the

29th the White Battalion troops had cleared Rederzhhausen, Mergenthau and Bachern. The last named place was taken after a brief fire fight and yielded prisoners of war. The troops continued the advance during the afternoon against little resistance. Hormonsberg, Ried, Zillen-berg, Eismansberg, Holzberg, Sirchenried, Baidlkirch and Tegernbach were screened of enemy troops. At Holz-berg 800 German soldiers were made prisoners of war. At 1900 Mittelstettin was mopped up with 30 German officers and 350 men added to the prisoner of war bag. The troops continued on in the night and cleared Lan-genmoos, Hanshofen and Gunzelhofen where an addi-tional 60 Germans were made captive. By 0230 of 30 April the troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan had passed through Herrnzeitl, Unt-Schweinbach, Spielberg, Ob Schweinbach, Aufkirchen, Geisenhofen, Rammerts-hofen and Stephansberg to Frauenberg, Germerswang and Unt-Malching, the last of its objectives. Nearly 1300 enemy soldiers had been made prisoners of war during the advance.

COMBAT TEAM 7 IS REORGANIZED

Because of the obstacle encountered by Task Force Horton and the increased danger for troops riding on armor and vehicles during the night Colonel Heintges issued orders at 2100, 29 April which changed the organization of the combat team. Task Force Horton was dissolved. The Third Battalion was ordered to dismount and proceed forward by foot while the transportation was to assemble in Fürstenfeld-Brück. In the morning troops of the Second Battalion who had pounded the roads throughout the day and night were to be given a ride. A platoon of tanks was detached from the Third Battalion.

THIRD BATTALION CONTINUES THE ADVANCE

Riflemen of the Third Battalion continued the advance on foot and at 0105 were in Puchheim encountering small arms fire. The opposition was slight as the town was reported cleared at 0120. In thirty minutes' time troops of the battalion were in Germering and had captured fourteen "88's", an American jeep and twenty prisoners of war. In a short while thirty-nine more Germans were captured by the Blue forces.

The Red Battalion moved out of Fürstenfeld-Brück at 0230, 30 April and passed through Puchheim, Unt-Pfaffenhfn. At daylight forces of both the Blue and Red Battalions were within the city limits of München, the capital of Bavaria. Blue forces officially reported themselves at Neuaußing at 0710 receiving some small arms fire. Colonel Heintges who was up front with the troops had questioned a civilian in the early dawn to determine the boundary of the city limits. He was told his troops were already in the city limits and was shown a sign which marked the entrance to the city from the southwest. Thus it was, that the "Cotton Balers" were first into München. On the left 30th Infantry troops entered later in the morning, as did 42nd and 45th Infantry Division troops from the north. Troops of all three divisions helped clear the city. The huge concentra-tion camp of Dachau, filled with anti-Nazi prisoners, was taken by troops of the "Rainbow" Division.

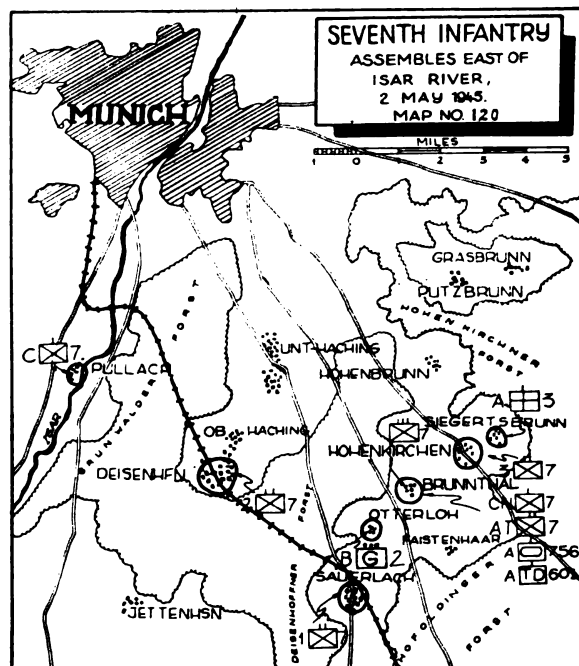
7th INFANTRY CLEARS ITS ZONE TO THE ISAR RIVER

During the day and night of 30 April troops of the First and Third Battalions cleared the Seventh Infantry zone in the southern portion of München to the Isar River. Blue troops encountered strong small arms fire

east of the Grafelfing district and had to knock out an enemy bunker manned by two machine gun crews. Two of the enemy were killed and eight captured as the nest was cleaned out. Planegg, where several of the enemy were killed and many more captured, was cleared early in the afternoon. The Blue troops pushed south to Stockt where 300 of the enemy gave up.

The Red troops had passed through the Blue Battalion and cleared Martinsried, Neuried, Fürstenried and Max-hof sections, taking numerous prisoners of war and over-running twelve damaged "88's". Resistance was encoun-tered from juvenile enemy soldiers but quickly ended. Forstenried and Pullach were cleared during the night. The bridges over the Isar at Pullach were found destroyed.

At Pullach the great underground estate and adminis-tration center of Adolf Hitler's chief of staff, Martin Bormann, was seized. It was a most elaborate under-ground installation, most modernistically designed and equipped. It had been the hiding place at various times of many Nazi big-wigs, and it contained many souven-irs, but alas the "Cotton Balers" were not to be around long enough to procure many of them. However, one of Adolf Hitler's personal luxuries, a fourteen passenger



sedan, was picked up and later given to the Command-ing General as a present from the Seventh Infantry. Though there was not much time to gather trophies, the great stores of some of the finest liquors in Europe were not overlooked by any means. The Commanding Officer himself appropriated 1200 bottles of champagne for his hard working staff and battalions.

Following clearance of its zone to the Isar the Seventh Infantry was placed in division reserve.

The dash into München was accomplished at prac-tically no cost to the Regiment. For the first time during the war the Seventh Infantry completed an assignment without a single death or killing occurring. The battle casualty records show that only two men were lightly wounded in the action. The enemy suffered some killed, though the number is unknown: 2600 German soldiers including one brigadier general were made captive.

The Dash Into Salzburg, Austria and Capture of Berchtesgaden

GERMANY, 2-4 MAY 1945

On 1 May 1945 orders were issued for Third Division forces to arrest the advance, to close into assembly areas, and prepare for another mission. The 42nd Infantry and 20th Armored Infantry Divisions were also to close into areas with the same instructions. The 45th Infantry Division, which had started fighting alongside the Third in Sicily, was given the mission of garrisoning München, guarding all prisoners and interior targets of the 3rd Infantry, 42nd Infantry and 20th Armored Infantry Divisions. It ended its combat in München, but the Third, which was one of the first to get into the fight 8 November 1942, was to go on, till the end. The 106th Cavalry Group was ordered to reconnoiter the Inn River from the Reichsautobahn north to Wasserburg. The 12th Armored Infantry Division of XXI Corps on the right was to pass across the front of the XV Corps to the east on the axis of the Reichsautobahn.⁷⁵

The Seventh Infantry reinforced remained in division reserve on 1-2 May 1945. On the second day displacement was made to the east of the Isar River. The First Battalion closed into Sauerlach, the Second Battalion into Deisenhofen and the Third into Hohenkirchen. Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, closed into Siegersbrunn while armored attachments assembled around the Regimental Command Post in Brunnthal. A change in the attachments occurred when a platoon of Company "B", 2nd Chemical Mortar Battalion, took over the supporting role of 4.2 mortars and assembled in Otterloh.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CONTINUE THE ADVANCE

On 2 May orders were issued for the XV Corps to continue the advance and capture Salzburg, Austria. The capture was to be made by the Third Infantry Division. On the left of the Third, the 20th Armored Infantry Division was also to advance and be followed by the 42nd Infantry Division. On the right, the 12th Armored Infantry Division was to continue its advance on the axis of the Reichsautobahn as far as Bernau near

the southwest corner of Chiem See. At that point the 12th Armored Infantry Division was directed to turn south into the center of the Redoubt area.⁷⁶

Instructions of Third Infantry Division were for the 15th and 30th Infantries to complete missions of mopping up west of the Inn River while the Seventh was to seize and secure the bridges at No. 1 and No. 2 with strong reconnaissance patrols during the night of 2-3 May, then at 0400, 3 May the "Cotton Balers" were to spearhead the Third Division drive by passing through the 30th Infantry at Rosenheim with the utmost speed, along the axis of the Reichsautobahn to capture Salzburg. East of the Inn River the Regiment was to protect the division's right by employing mechanized reconnaissance and the establishment of blocks. Contact was to be maintained with the 12th Armored Infantry Division as far as line "GRANT". Following capture of Salzburg the Regiment was to be prepared to capture Berchtesgaden on Third Division order if the situation should permit.

7th INFANTRY LEADS THE 3rd DIVISION AND XV CORPS INTO SALZBURG, AUSTRIA, 2-4 MAY 1945

At 2150 on 2 May a reconnaissance force consisting of Company "L", mounted on two 2½-ton trucks, with a platoon of light tanks, two medium tanks and two tank destroyers from the attachments departed from the assembly area for Rosenheim by way of Peiss and Bad Aibling. At Rosenheim 30th Infantry elements were passed through and the force moved south to the Reichsautobahn. At 2230 the remainder of the Third Battalion, reinforced and motorized, followed the reconnaissance force.

Along the Reichsautobahn, which skirts the south shore of Chiem See, the elements advanced with great speed to Die Tiroler Aichen where Bridge No. 1 was found destroyed. Detour was made through Moosen and a crossing effected where the Sossauer Kanal joins Die Tiroler Aichen. Getting back on to the Reichsautobahn the Third Battalion forces and attachments sped on to seize Bridge No. 2 over the Traun River near Ob-Siegsdorf in the morning of 3 May. During the advance Company "K" fired on five enemy vehicles fleeing south from Frasdorf. One was set afire and its occupants killed.

Near Ob-Siegsdorf itself some of the rifle elements were ambushed by about 200 German Infantrymen occupying strong hill positions. Private First Class Everett M. Goodloe of Company "I" was killed by the enemy and a few other men were wounded. Snipers in buildings about 200 yards to the rear prevented the



A road sign points to the last objectives of World War II for the Seventh Infantry.

⁷⁵ Operations Instruction No. 68, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Unt-Haching, Germany, 1 May '45.

⁷⁶ Operations Instruction No. 69, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., Unt-Haching, Germany, 2 May '45.

machine gun squad of Company "M" to which Private Leonard J. Blaskowski belonged from delivering effective fire against the enemy Infantrymen occupying the hill positions. Private Blaskowski singlehandedly assaulted the snipers. Rushing over the intervening flat and open terrain, he cleared several houses, killed three of the enemy and captured ten. Observing that hostile fire was coming from a barn, he unhesitatingly charged that position. As he opened the door of the barn he was

fatally wounded by a sniper. His courageous actions however had enabled his squad to inflict severe losses on the enemy.⁷⁷

Company "I" went into the attack which soon became temporarily stalled when 20mm, machine gun and rifle fire was encountered. Private First Class Vincent A. Logan rushed forward in a singlehanded assault on an enemy strongpoint. Dashing 100 yards through fire, he assumed a firing position on a road embankment and, in a 15 minute duel, destroyed two 20mm guns, killed four and wounded four of the enemy. He then dashed 75 yards through fire to bring up tank support and, advancing on foot, forced the surrender of 15 Germans.

Private First Class Charles H. Zweck of Company "M" dashed over bullet-swept ground to set up his machine gun in an exposed position. Engaging the enemy he wounded and killed the members of an enemy seven-man crew of a self-propelled gun. Although German rifle fire was concentrated on him, he blew up a gasoline truck, neutralized two hostile machine guns, drove the enemy from his firing line, killed 12 and wounded 20 Germans, and caused the capture of 114 others.

Privates First Class Logan and Zweck were each awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. For his part in the same engagement Staff Sergeant Clarence Fredlund of Company "I" was awarded the Silver Star Medal.⁷⁸

The Second Battalion, motorized and reinforced by a battery of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, platoons of light tanks, medium tanks, tank destroyers and chemical mortars, and Cannon Company, moved out of the assembly areas at 0300, 3 May and followed the Third Battalion forces and, in turn, was followed by the remainder of the Regiment.

At 1300 the Second Battalion reinforced passed through the Third Battalion forces on the Reichsautobahn near Ob-Siegsdoff. The advance was continued to the Saalach River during the afternoon and evening with a little shooting along the way. The Saalach River along one stretch separates Germany from Austria. The Second Battalion reported three bridges over the river destroyed.

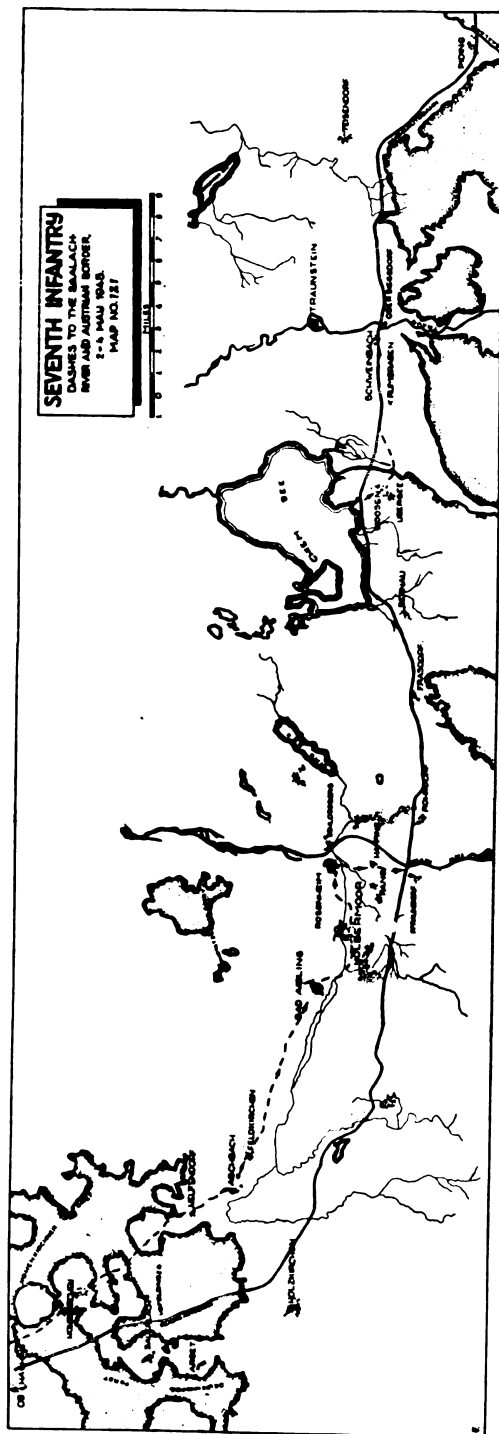
SECOND BATTALION CROSSES SAALACH INTO AUSTRIA TO BE FIRST INTO SALZBURG, 4 MAY 1945

Not to be held up by the river obstacle, troops of Lieutenant Colonel Duncan's battalion crossed the Saalach, a tributary of the Salzach, by assault craft during the night and at dawn entered Salzburg. The White Battalion troops were the first Third Division troops into Austria and the first Allied troops into Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart. While the troops were in the city west of the Salzach the 106th Cavalry Group then attached to the Third Infantry Division but not in the city at that time received a radio message from German forces in the city who desired to surrender. Other than a little shooting that had been put on near the airfield of Salzburg there was no fighting in the city.

During the rapid advance to capture Salzburg over 1000 enemy had been captured and several Germans were killed. The casualties sustained by the Regiment were small in number.

⁷⁷ GO No. 226, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 24 June '45. Pvt. Blaskowski was posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal.

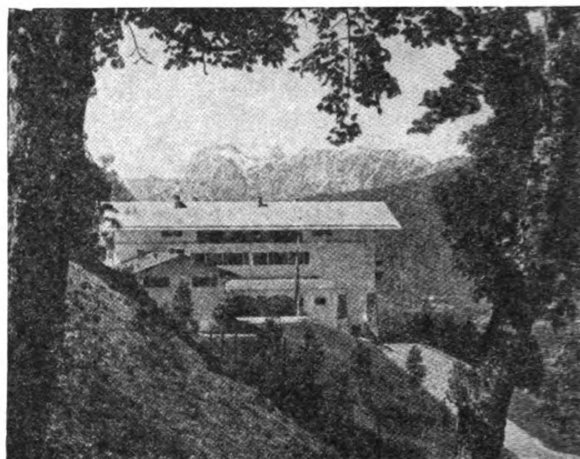
⁷⁸ For authority see GOs 600 & 626, HQ, 7th Army, Oct. '45 & GO No. 345, HQ, 3d Inf. Div., 25 Sept. '45.



Early in the morning of 4 May 1945 reconnaissance discovered that a railroad bridge over the Saalach near Piding had a locomotive engine on it. A small wooden bridge was also discovered nearby which was undamaged and strong enough to permit passage of foot troops and jeeps.

With its Second Battalion already across the river into Austria and in possession of much of Salzburg and by a stroke of luck in possession of two bridges, the Seventh Infantry was in a most favorable position to swoop down on Berchtesgaden and capture Hitler's hideaway, Der Berghof Obersalzberg. No one realized this any sooner than the Third Division Commander. On the right the 101st Airborne Infantry Division and the Second French Armored Division, which divisions had direct orders to seize Berchtesgaden, had not yet reached the Saalach.

Early 4 May Major General O'Daniel took matters into his own hands and decided to send the Seventh United States Infantry out of the Third Infantry Divis-



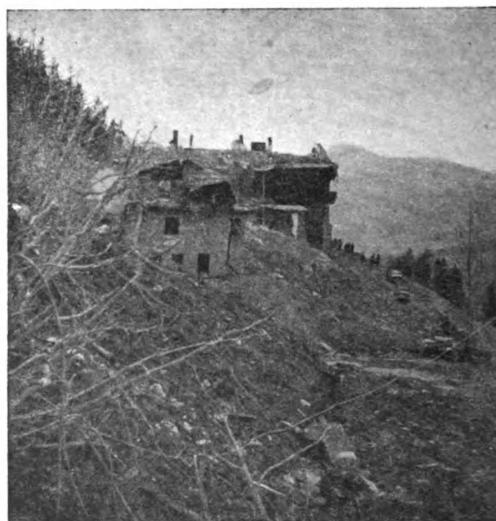
Prisoners of war are lined up on the Reichsautobahn during the last days of the fighting in Europe.



ion zone of action to steal Berchtesgaden and Hitler's hideaway, Der Berghof Obersalzberg, from the American paratroopers and French armored forces, who technically were supposed to capture those places. Only Salzburg, Austria, had been definitely assigned to the Third Infantry Division but that place was already in hand. It had been expected that Salzburg would be a last enemy stronghold before Berchtesgaden and would be a hard nut to crack, like Nürnberg had been, but, as stated, hardly a shot had been fired in that city and it capitulated early.

Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the Third Infantry Division, had tried unsuccessfully to get Berchtesgaden as an objective for his division. However he decided not to let slip from his fingers the golden opportunity of adding the Bavarian mountain town, made famous by Hitler's hideaway, to the long list of towns and cities captured by the "Rock of the Marne" Division. He then ordered Colonel John A. Heintges to drive the "Cotton Baler" Regiment with all possible speed and to capture Berchtesgaden, the prize and pearl of all military objectives at that time.

Colonel Heintges, who the night before had dreamed and hoped for that very opportunity and had conceived his "Orange Plan" to put into execution should the chance occur, quickly issued his orders to push the First and Third Battalions over the bridges. The Commanding General, to assure himself of success, had ordered Colonel Heintges to place heavy guard on the two bridges



and to permit no one, or any vehicle, to pass over them except Seventh Infantry personnel and vehicles. Accordingly guards commanded by First Lieutenant Nathan W. White and Second Lieutenant Robert Miller, liaison

officers, were placed on the bridges. The Commanding General established a temporary command post for the Third Infantry Division on the far side of the Saalach River and made it known that he could be contacted if an occasion warranted it.

Skilled workers of Company "A", 10th Combat Engineers, quickly removed the locomotor and repaired the railroad bridge to permit passage of the artillery and attached armor. The First and Third Battalions meanwhile had passed all their foot troops and tactical vehicles over the small wooden bridge. First Battalion patrols soon entered Bad Reichenhall and at 0930 that place was seized with 3,000 German troops held as prisoners of war. The Third Battalion troops captured Marzoll. With those places in hand Colonel Heintges gave Lieutenant Colonel Wallace and Major Flynn the go sign for Berchtesgaden. At noon time the First and Third Battalions were on their way in a pincers move that was to bring about the capture of the famous objective within a surprisingly short time.

7th INFANTRY BATTLE PATROL LEADS ALL TROOPS INTO BERCHTESGADEN

The First Battalion was assigned the most direct route along the main highway from Bad Reichenhall but was preceded by elements of the Seventh Infantry Battle Patrol commanded by Second Lieutenant William

Battalion moving around from Marzoll to Grodig. St. Leonard and Schellenberg entered the town from the northeast at 1630. Der Berghof Obersalzberg was quickly found and a Nazi flag torn down from the pole nearby. Contrary to news reports Der Berghof Obersalzberg had not been hit by an air bomb but it was smoking from destruction and fires caused by the SS troops prior to entry by the Seventh Infantry. However many of the SS barracks, homes and other buildings nearby had been hit and many large bomb craters marked the area. The former home of Herman Goering and the former headquarters of the German Luftwaffe were found to be undamaged and placed under guard, as was the Adolf Hitler Hotel. The Regimental Command Post became established in the Haus Waldrast Berchtesgaden.

Meanwhile the French forces and the 101st Airborne Infantry Division had not been so fortunate in discovering bridges over the Saalach. They learned of those held by the Seventh Infantry and sought to use them but failed, until the Commanding General had the word from the "Cotton Baler" forces in Berchtesgaden that they had the place in hand. Once when the 3,000 German prisoners seized in Bad Reichenhall were being marched over the wooden bridge and on the way back to prisoner of war cages, a column of vehicles was seen moving rapidly toward the small wooden bridge. The lead vehicle, a jeep, carried the stars of a field general, who was standing up in the vehicle, with one hand on the windshield and the other waving frantically and



While Colonel Heintges and three rifle platoons of the Regiment came to "Present Arms" on 5 May 1945, S/Sgt. Bennett O. Walters, Co. "L", and Pfc Nick Urick, Co. "A", raised the national colors, "Old Glory," over the former estate of Adolf Hitler near Berchtesgaden.

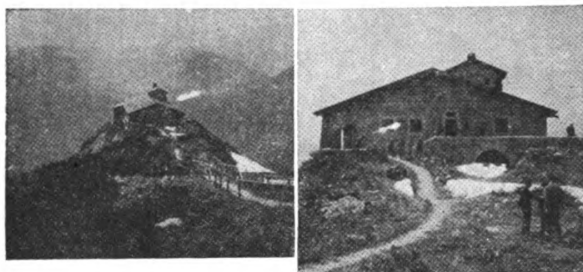
Miller, Jr. The Battle Patrols of the Seventh Infantry encountered no opposition and were the first Allied soldiers to enter Berchtesgaden at 1558 on 4 May 1945. The Red Battalion troops soon followed and the town was seized with 2000 enemy surrendering. The Third

most impatiently with a swagger stick for the prisoners of war to clear the road and make way for his column. Not desiring to get run down the German prisoners jumped aside and let the vehicles through. Obeying orders, the guard however blocked the road and stopped

the French Second Armored Division column. The French general, who was Major General LeClerc, demanded an explanation from the officer in command of the guard. When told of the existing orders he asked of the whereabouts of the Commanding General, American Third Infantry Division, and when told demanded to be taken to him. Major General O'Daniel was contacted and gave permission for the French general to pass over the bridge but all French troops were ordered held in place. The French general who was most displeased over the whole situation hurriedly passed to converse with the American general.

Major General Phillippe Hautecloque, really the Vicomte de Hautecloque, who served under the pseudonym of "General LeClerc" which had been adopted in the early part of the war to protect his wife and five children who lived in occupied France, was probably France's most outstanding field general in World War II. It was he who led Free French Forces on that long desert march of 1700 miles across the Sahara from the Chad territory of Central Africa in 1943 to help crush Axis forces in Africa. He took command of French regulars for the invasion of Southern France and led the Second French Armored Division into Paris and Strasbourg.⁷⁹ He was a man of action and usually got his way. But on 4 May 1945 he came face to face with Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, Commanding General of the American Third Infantry Division.

Unfortunately for posterity and history the conversation between the American and French generals was not recorded, but "Iron Mike" who very early in life had learned the full meaning of the phrase "possession is nine-tenths of the law", remained adamant and refused to budge. In an earlier war a Frenchman had said: "They shall not pass." On 4, May 1945 "Iron Mike" said somewhat the same thing but in different words and referred to French troops. Not until some time after the Com-



To secure even more privacy than he enjoyed at his famous chalet, Hitler had the fabulous Alderhorst (Eagle's Nest) built farther up in the Alps, about five miles from Der Berghof, atop Kehlstein (Stone Throat), the mountain that overhangs Berchtesgaden. There Hitler went alone and occasionally entertained a special guest. An elevator shaft had been drilled through the mountain. After 4 May 1945 the elevator was out of order so "Cotton Balers" who visited the refuge had to climb the mountain. Two views of the eyrie are shown above.

manding General had learned of the capture of Berchtesgaden by the Seventh Infantry did he allow the guards released. The French troops entered the town about four hours after the first "Cotton Balers" had entered and found the Seventh Infantry in control.

Though the Seventh Infantry had captured Berchtesgaden the Commanding General had much to do with it, as it was his order that sent the "Cotton Balers" on their way and it was his foresight that prevented other elements from crossing the river until the objectives were captured. As a result of his order vehicles of the 101st

Airborne and the French were jammed on the Reichs autobahn with no place to go until he chose to let them.

In Berchtesgaden, at Hermann Goering's Staff Headquarters, General Der Fleiger (Lt. Gen.) Gustav Kastner-Kirkdorf was found dead in his bedroom adjoining his office. According to a female employee at the headquarters, who was questioned, he was a member of Adolf Hitler's Staff and had arrived at Goering's Headquarters



A view of the Austrian mountains as seen from Der Berghof Obersalzberg.

in Berchtesgaden on 2 May. He committed suicide shortly after Seventh Infantrymen entered the town, as did one other German general.

Included in the bag of prisoners caught in Berchtesgaden was Colonel Fritz Goering of the Luftwaffe, a nephew of the number two Nazi, Hermann Goering. He personally surrendered to Colonel Heintges and handed his pistols to the Commanding Officer, who personally questioned him on the whereabouts of Adolf Hitler, Hermann Goering and other Nazi officials, as it was hoped that some of them could be captured. The German Colonel stated he did not know of his uncle's whereabouts because Hitler had had Hermann Goering arrested a few days before because he had wanted to quit the war. Neither did he know anything of Hitler's whereabouts. He told Colonel Heintges that he would like to turn over to the Seventh Infantry Commander the property of Hermann and Frau Goering which was quite considerable. That which interested the "Cotton Baler" Colonel most was some 18,000 bottles of the finest liquors and two automobiles; the Field Marshal's two-seated roadster and a fourteen passenger, bullet-proof sedan.

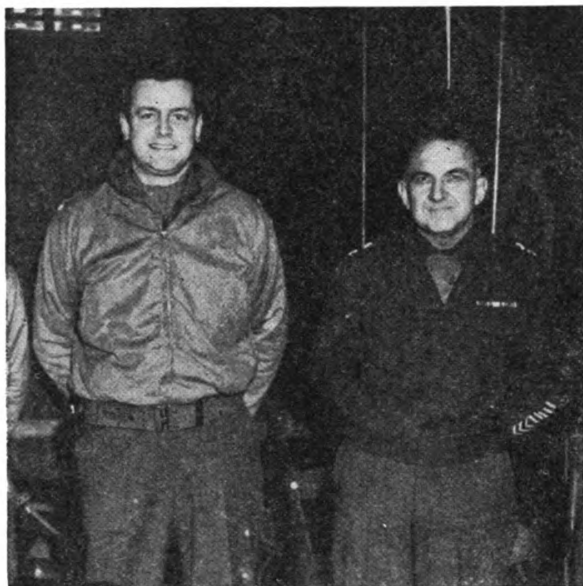
According to the headquarters commander of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring's General Staff, who was also taken prisoner in Berchtesgaden that day, the "Cotton Balers" had missed the commander in chief of all German forces on the Western Front by just several hours. The field marshal had been in Berchtesgaden and had left the town the previous night with hundreds of his troops. However at 2000B on 4 May an armistice delegation from Field Marshal Kesselring entered the Second Battalion lines in Salzburg, Austria. The delegation consisted of General of Infantry Foertsch, Commanding General of the First German Army, at the head, and

⁷⁹ After the war Gen. LeClerc led an expeditionary force to Indo-China and then was appointed Inspector General of French Forces in North Africa.

Colonel Zolling, Major Hay, Major Forker, and Major Von Orloff of the German General Staff Corps as well as Major Koelle, Captain Behrendt, Captain Castillieri, First Lieutenant Von Weber, Sonderfuehrer Schoeningh and Colonel Collosius of the Luftwaffe.

There was much rejoicing and excitement over the capture of Berchtesgaden and the troops indulged in a little celebrating. Champagne and cigars were found in abundance at Hitler's and Goering's former establishments which were searched for souvenirs.

On 5 May 1945 an important ceremony was held when the American flag was raised over Der Berghof Obersalzberg by the Seventh Infantry. At first the cere-



The two men who planned and executed the theft of Berchtesgaden from the 101st Airborne Division and 2nd French Armored Division on 4 May 1945 and who accepted responsibility for the "steal" were Major General John W. "Iron Mike" O'Daniel, commanding the Third Infantry Division, and his ace rifle regiment commander, Colonel John A. Heintges, commanding the famous Seventh Infantry.

mony was delayed by French interference. The French troops had entered Berchtesgaden during the early evening of 4 May and were given a section of the town to occupy. Their section controlled the roads leading to Der Berghof Obersalzberg which is on the outskirts of the town. Early on the 5th the French general, probably still smarting from the fact that his troops had been held up at the Saalach River bridges, had given orders to his command to block all entrances to the famous hideout. So when Seventh Infantrymen went to hold their flag raising ceremony on the 5th, there were unsuccessful attempts to prevent them from reaching the hideout which they had captured the day before. Just as the American flag was to be raised over the mountain hideout a French colonel appeared on the scene and attempted to prevent the ceremony because of the standing orders of his commanding general. His argument was that Der Berghof was within the occupational zone assigned to the French the night before. After much discussion it was agreed to raise the American "Stars and Stripes" and French "Tricolor," together, up the pole which once flew the Nazi flag. A French flag was procured but it was such a large one that when the raising was first

attempted it dragged on the ground. The French officer then withdrew his objections and the American flag alone was raised over the former mountain retreat.

At 1630 on 5 May 1945 the following message was received at the Command Post from the Commanding General:

Effective immediately there will be no more fighting unless fired upon or attacked.

O'Daniel, Commanding.



Lt. Col. Jack M. Duncan, commanding, and Major Clarence H. White, Jr., executive officer, of the Second Battalion, were photographed near the battalion's command post in Salzburg, Austria, on 6 May 1945.

Then at 2045 that night the following message was received:

An armistice has been agreed upon with Army Group "G". Terms to be effective 061200B May 1945.

O'Daniel, Commanding.

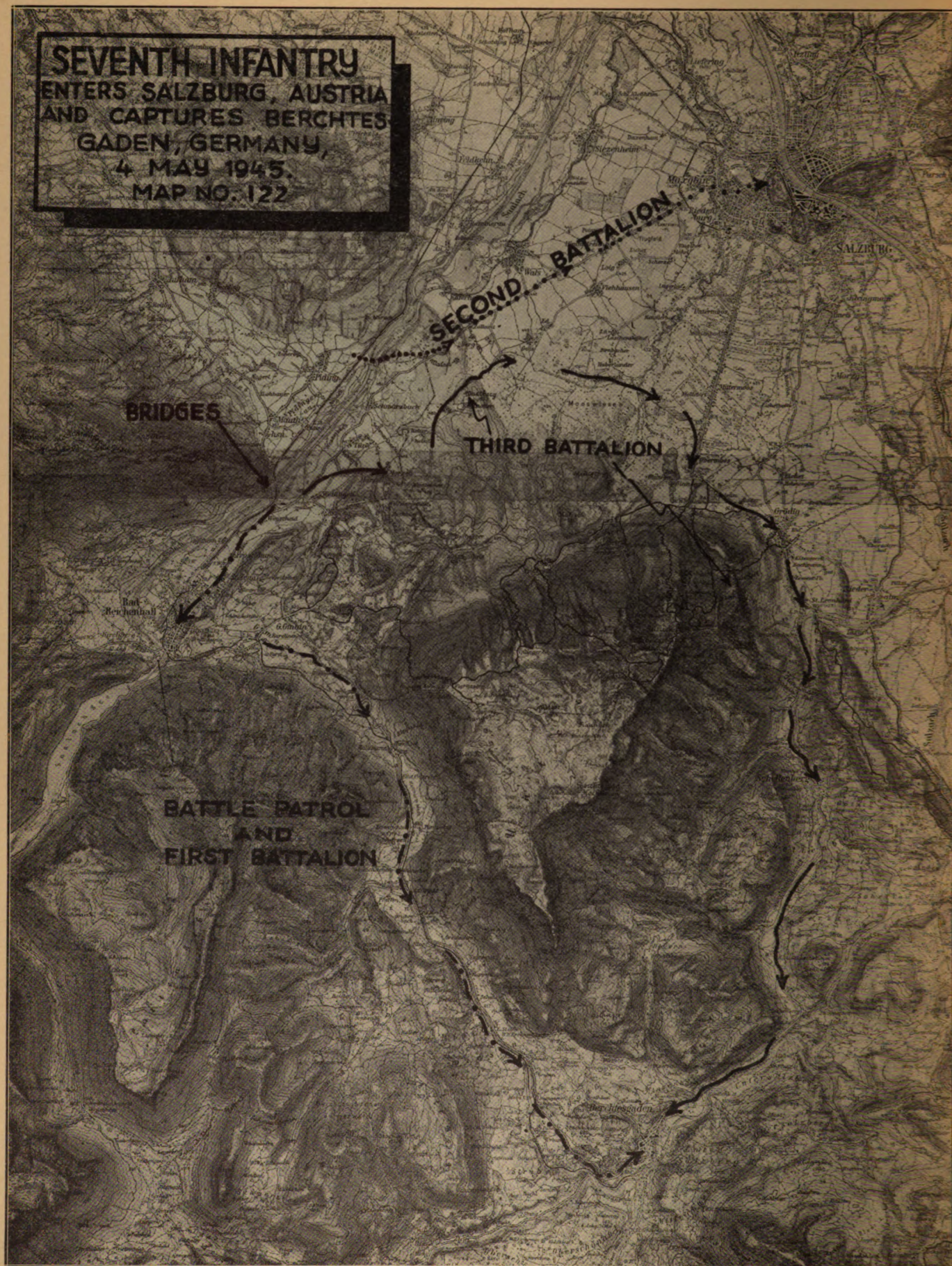
Fighting therefore against the enemy was finished for the Seventh Infantry for World War II.

On 6 May the Seventh Infantry was ordered to remove its First and Third Battalions from Berchtesgaden and to assemble the entire regiment in Salzburg, Austria. Reluctantly the troops which had captured Berchtesgaden turned the whole place over to the 506th Parachute Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division and to French troops and repaired to Salzburg.

The short stay in the famous town had been quite profitable and many souvenirs formerly belonging to Nazi big wigs were hauled away to the dismay of the relieving forces. Colonel Heintges had to content himself with only one of Hermann Goering's vehicles, however. The sedan could not be started and had to be left behind.

While the Seventh Infantry assembled in Salzburg, Austria, World War II came to an end. The German armies had begun surrendering on 2 May when Army Group "C" in Northern Italy stopped fighting. The German forces in Holland, Denmark, Helgoland, the Frisian Islands and Northwest Germany followed suit on 5 May. As already told Army Group "G" in Western Austria and Bavaria surrendered on 6 May. Army Groups "A", "E" and "South", opposing the Russians, and German forces in Norway surrendered on 9 May and all fighting in Europe ceased.

**SEVENTH INFANTRY
ENTERS SALZBURG, AUSTRIA
AND CAPTURES BERCHTESGADEN,
GERMANY,
4 MAY 1945.
MAP NO. 122**



APPENDIX I

Summary

On 4 May 1945 when its troops were first to enter Salzburg, Austria, in the early morning, and in the afternoon captured Berchtesgaden, Germany, the Seventh United States Infantry ended its combat days for World War II in a blaze of glory.

It was nearly two and one-half years to the day since the landing at Fedala, French Morocco. During ten campaigns the Regiment had battled from Fedala to Berchtesgaden, and had compiled a combat record second to none in the entire American Army. It was indeed fitting that the Regiment that had captured Fedala should have captured Berchtesgaden, once the hideout of Adolf Hitler himself.

Many feats of arms and "firsts" did the "Cotton Baler" Regiment perform over its rugged combat course. Of the three rifle regiments in the Third Infantry Division it was the only one to be employed in the assault for every major operation of the "Rock of the Marne" Division, whether the operation was over water or land. That each of the commanding generals of the Third Infantry Division, Major Generals Jonathan W. Anderson, Lucian K. Truscott, Jr., and John W. O'Daniel, who commanded during the war, should hold such confidence in and so honor the "Cotton Baler" Regiment speaks for itself, and is, in the opinion of many, the greatest tribute that could have been paid the Regiment and its fighting men. The Seventh Infantry was the only regiment of the Third Infantry Division to be in the assault for each and every one of the following major operations: (1) the invasion of French Morocco; (2) the invasion of Sicily; (3) the crossing of the Volturno River; (4) the Anzio-Nettuno Landing; (5) the attack of 30 January 1944; (6) the breakthrough from the Anzio Beachhead; (7) the invasion of southern France; (8) the crossing of the Meurthe River; (9) the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign; (10) the entry into Germany; (11) the breaching of the Siegfried Line; (12) the crossing of the Rhine River; (13) the Battle of Nürnberg; (14) the Battle of Augsburg; (15) the race into München; (16) the capture of Salzburg and Berchtesgaden. The Seventh Infantry was in the assault for many other operations, which cannot, however, be classified as major operations.

The "7th Light Foot" Infantry, always "Willing and Able", never failed to capture an objective or complete an assigned mission during World War II. That was why it never missed an assault assignment for each major operation the Third Infantry Division executed. A trust well placed, a job well done.

Having been in the assault for so many operations the Seventh Infantry Regiment had the opportunity to distinguish itself. The noteworthy feats it performed and the enviable list of "firsts" the Regiment compiled include: (1) the capture of Fedala and first entry into Casablanca; (2) the rapid establishment of its beachhead in Sicily and the capture of Agrigento, Palermo, and Messina, principal cities of that island; (3) the first crossing of the Volturno River on 13 October 1943, which merited the personal commendations of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark, commanding United States Fifth Army; (4) a penetration of the Barbara Line, outer defenses before Cassino; (5) the greatest penetration into enemy territory during the attack of 30-31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead and noteworthy defensive fighting thereafter; (6) the capture of Cisterna di Littoria during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead; (7) one of its battalions made the

first entry of any Allied unit into Rome on 4 June 1944; (8) a rapid establishment of its beachhead on the French Riviera, 15 August 1944; (9) the first observation of and taking under fire of the German convoys destroyed north of Montelimar, France; (10) a principal role in the capture of Besancon, France; (11) outstanding fighting in the Vosges Mountains and the capture of Le Haute Jacques, the "Crossroads of Hell"; (12) a successful crossing of the Meurthe River; (13) the first entry for Third Infantry Division into the province of Alsace and the city of Strasbourg; (14) successful assaults across La Fecht River, Canal de Colmar, and south between the Rhine River and the Rhone-Rhine Canal during the three attack phases of the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign; (15) the first entry into Germany for the Third Infantry Division; (16) the greatest penetration into the Siegfried Line during the Third Infantry Division attack of 18 March 1945 and subsequent breaching of the line; (17) a successful crossing of the Rhine River; (18) the first entry into the Adolf Hitler Platz in the inner city of Nürnberg; (19) the first entry into Augsburg; (20) the first entry into the city limits of München; (21) the first entry into Salzburg, Austria; (22) the capture of Berchtesgaden, Germany.

TEN CAMPAIGNS

After the first sections of this volume were printed the War Department in Washington changed the time limitations of some battles and campaigns previously recognized for the United States Army for World War II and added new ones to the list.¹ Under the list the Seventh United States Infantry is credited with having participated in ten campaigns against the enemy in World War II. The ten campaigns are listed in Appendix III.

In this volume the account of the action of the Seventh Infantry for the war just ended was described under titles different from the titles of the ten official campaigns the Regiment is now credited with having participated in because some of the Seventh Infantry actions carried over into two or more of those ten campaigns. Also it was not known that the War Department was to change or add to the list. But regardless as to whether the Regiment is credited with eight or ten campaigns its action consisted of so many days. The Regiment spent more than 400 days in the actual front lines. If the days it was in reserve just behind the front lines and the few days between 4 May 1945 and the date the war is officially timed as being ended in Europe are counted the Regiment spent nearly 500 days in the front line battle areas. Few regiments or divisions spent that much time in the forward areas.

Though the French Moroccan Campaign consisted of only three full days it was crammed full of action. The Regiment made its first amphibious landing during the war, captured Fedala and played a principal role for the land forces in forcing the capitulation of Casablanca.

The Tunisian Campaign was the easiest of them all for the Seventh Infantry because the Regiment was in the battle areas only a few days towards the close of the campaign and did not fire a shot. Seventh Infantrymen consider a battle star for that campaign a gift but when one considers the generosity of the War Department in bestowing battle stars to non-combatant personnel not in the actual battle areas for campaigns he may decide that the Seventh Infantry was entitled to its second battle star for World War II. (The battle areas as determined

¹ GO No. 24, War Dept., Wash., D. C., 4 Mar. '47.

**PERIODS OF ACTUAL COMBAT ENGAGED IN BY THE SEVENTH INFANTRY
AND
PERIODS OF NON-COMBAT WITHIN THE FORWARD BATTLE AREAS
DURING WORLD WAR II**

Length in Days	Dates	Country	Type of Action or Mission	Opposing Troops
3	8-11 November 1942	French Morocco	Offensive	French Colonial
8	6-13 May 1943	Tunisia	II Corps Reserve	
13	10-22 July 1943	Sicily	Offensive	Italian and German
7	1-7 August 1943	Sicily	Division Reserve	
10	8-17 August 1943	Sicily	Offensive	Italian and German
14	22 September to 5 October 1943	Italy	Offensive	German
7	6-12 October 1943	Italy	Patrolling and Reconnaissance	German
35	13 October to 16 November 1943	Italy	Offensive	German
67	22 January to 28 March 1944	Italy	Offensive-Defensive	German
15	28 March to 12 April 1944	Italy	VI Corps Reserve	
18	13-30 April 1944	Italy	Defensive	German
22	1-22 May 1944	Italy	VI Corps Reserve	
13	23 May to 4 June 1944	Italy	Offensive	German
75	15 August to 14 October 1944	France	Offensive	German
21	20 October to 9 November 1944	France	Offensive	German
13	20 November to 2 December 1944	France	Offensive	German
18	3-20 December 1944	France	Defensive	German
30	21 December 1944 to 19 January 1945	France	Defensive	German
16	22 January to 7 February 1945	France	Offensive	German
11	8-18 February 1945	France	Defensive	German
37	15 March to 20 April 1945	France and Germany	Offensive	German
12	23 April to 4 May 1945	Germany and Austria	Offensive	German

Total days in the lines: 465.

by the War Department include much more territory than the Infantryman would include.) Actually the Seventh Infantry suffered two men killed and three wounded, but had earlier sent hundreds of its finest officers and men to reinforce the hard hit divisions of that campaign. Many of the "Cotton Balers" sent to reinforce the then fighting divisions were killed. Because of the training they had received while with the Regiment and because of their sacrifices it may be said that they and the Seventh Infantry contributed much to the successful conclusion of that campaign.

The Sicilian and Naples-Foggia Campaigns were similar for the Seventh Infantry in that they were primarily pursuit actions over rugged, mountainous country. In the first an amphibious assault was made and in the second a crossing of a defended river line was accomplished. The Naples-Foggia was of longer duration and was therefore more costly. For the Seventh Infantry it ended after an attack on the outer defenses before Cassino.

In this volume the actions of the Regiment from 22 January to 4 June 1944 were referred to as belonging to one campaign, the Anzio-Rome. The records show that it was the costliest one of them all for the Seventh Infantry. It consisted of an amphibious landing, an attempted breakthrough from the initial beachhead, defensive warfare on the beachhead, and finally a break-

through and drive into Rome. Though never officially cited for its fighting on the Anzio Beachhead the Seventh Infantry nevertheless was conspicuous and there displayed some of its best fighting during World War II. The roughest four-day period during that campaign, and for the whole war for the Seventh Infantry, was the period from 30 January to 2 February 1944 inclusive when 166 "Cotton Balers" were killed outright and a large number were wounded. February 16, 1944, was a particularly costly day and the period from 29 February to 4 March 1944 was a time of heavy and bitter fighting. Casualties during the breakthrough operations of 23-25 May 1944 were severe. Sharp and costly actions were fought on the way to Rome.

The operations of the Seventh Infantry during the period 15 August-20 December 1944, which occurred in France, were referred to in this volume under the title "From the Riviera to the Rhine". Time limitations of three of the official campaigns fall within that period. The actions of the Regiment from the "Riviera to the Rhine" consumed about the same amount of time as the Anzio-Rome actions but were not quite so costly. The actions were featured by the fourth amphibious assault of the war for the Regiment, pursuit of the enemy through southern France, bitter fighting in the Vosges Mountains, a major river crossing operation, and

another pursuit of the enemy to the Rhine itself.

Members of the Regiment like to refer to the campaign from 20 December 1944 to 18 February 1945 when the Third Infantry Division fought under supreme French command as the "Colmar Pocket" Campaign but such a title is not recognized by the United States War Department. The Colmar actions fall under the official Rhineland Campaign. But by whichever name you wish to call the campaign it should be recognized as a particularly bitter one during its three attack phases for the Third Infantry Division and Seventh Infantry. The "Cotton Baler" Regiment crossed La Fecht River by stealth, crossed the Canal de Colmar in another night operation, and alone opened the Third Division's attack between the Canal du Rhon au Rhin and Rhine River. Nearly all the casualties suffered during that campaign occurred during the three attack phases.

The campaign of the Regiment which started in France on 15 March 1945, carried across much of Germany, and ended in Salzburg, Austria, and Berchtesgaden, Germany, on 4 May 1945, was referred to by the writer as the German Campaign, another unofficial designation. The campaign was characterized by sharp and bitter actions of a few days duration and then rapid pursuit of a beaten enemy. The entry into Germany, breaching of the Siegfried Line, actions in Nürnberg, Augsburg, München, Salzburg, and Berchtesgaden highlighted the campaign.

FOUR MAJOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULTS

During World War II the Third Infantry Division made four major amphibious assaults and two minor, behind-the-lines landings of battalion sizes. The Seventh Infantry was used for assault purposes in each of the major operations.

The first big assault was the operation against French Morocco when the "Cotton Balers" made their longest voyage to strike at the enemy. The troops embarked in Virginia waters, crossed the Atlantic and debarked off Fedala, French Morocco, to invade Africa. Of the four great overseas operations it was the most confused and poorly executed because in the dark the assault troops were landed at widely separated points by the naval coxswains. Weak and spotty resistance by French colonial troops saved the Seventh Infantry much heavier casualties. But in spite of its great dispersion the Regiment captured its initial objectives. The cost of that operation was heavy enough however. Fifteen members of the Regiment are definitely known to have lost their lives in that operation, and it is almost certain that the number was even greater because at least four "Cotton Balers" are still missing from that action.

An unusual storm delayed the Seventh Infantry assault against Sicily and enemy shore guns hampered the second amphibious landing. Direct hits were scored by the enemy guns on the command vessel of the commanding officer. Twenty-two members of the Regiment lost their lives during the assault operations against Sicily.

The assault landing south of Nettuno, Italy, was the easiest of them all for the Regiment and was virtually unopposed. Ten men nevertheless lost their lives through accidents and because of exploding mines. It was not the landing but what came after it that made the Anzio-Rome Campaign the costliest of them all for the Seventh Infantry.

Contrary to what most people think the invasion of southern France was the costliest one of the four amphibious assaults made by the Seventh Infantry dur-

ing World War II. Fifty-eight members of the Regiment were killed in that operation, which as far as has been determined by the writer, was the greatest number of personnel the Regiment lost killed in a single day during the entire war. Three of the small landing craft struck underwater mines and were destroyed. The underwater mines caused most of the deaths but exploding land mines, machine gun and small arms fire were the direct causes of some of the deaths. The assault against southern France was the only one which the "Cotton Balers" made in daylight. The first three were all made in the dark before dawn.

ASSAULTS AGAINST DEFENDED RIVER LINES

Many rivers and canals were crossed during World War II by the Seventh Infantry, several by major assault operations. The Wadi Mella in French Morocco, the Furiano, Rosmarino and Di Zappulo in Sicily, the Volturno River and Canale Mussolini in Italy, the Durrance, Doubs, La Moselle, Meurthe, Le Petite Rhin, La Fecht, L'll Rivers, and the Canal de Colmar in France, the Rhine, Main and blue Danube in Germany, and the Saalach, which forms the boundary between Germany and Austria, were just a few of the many streams, canals and rivers which the "Cotton Balers" crossed during the second great conflict.

The crossing of the Volturno when forty-one members of the Regiment were killed in action, the crossing of the Meurthe when thirty-one "Cotton Balers" were killed, the crossing of La Fecht River by stealth, which led to bitter fighting the next day, the crossing of the Canal de Colmar, and the crossing of the Rhine, when twenty-four Seventh Infantrymen were killed, were river and canal crossing operations which demanded great preparations and were very successful. The troops crossed La Moselle by seizing two bridges before the enemy could destroy them. The Main River was crossed three times. The crossing of the Saalach, just a few days before the termination of the war, was very spectacular and enabled the "Cotton Balers" to capture Berchtesgaden.

SEVENTH INFANTRY FOUGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS

Besides crossing oceans, seas, and rivers, the Seventh Infantry was called on to fight in the mountains and forests. The rugged hills of Sicily, the Appenines of Italy, and the heavily wooded Vosges Mountains of France saw some bitter fighting. The Regiment ended the war in the Bavarian Mountains of Germany and Austria. Probably the two individual peaks which are mentioned most by the "Cotton Balers" as scenes of bitter fighting in World War II are Hill di Marco, the "Million Dollar Ridge" in Sicily, and Mount la Difensa in Italy. Many men lost their lives fighting for those piles of rock.

MANY CITIES WERE ENTERED BY THE "COTTON BALERS"

In World War II the Seventh Infantry added the names of many cities to the list which includes New Orleans and Mexico City. Some of those were Casablanca, Agrigento, Palermo, Messina, Rome, Besancon, Strasbourg, Nürnberg, Augsburg, München, and Salzburg. Bitter fighting took place at the gates of Casablanca and inside Besancon, Strasbourg, and Nürnberg.

BIG LAND OPERATIONS AND BIG BATTLES FOR SMALL PLACES

The Seventh Infantry took part in many big attacks over land. The "breakthrough" from the Anzio Beachhead and the breaching of the Westwall or Siegfried Line were outstanding ones. Cisterna di Littoria was the hardest nut of all for the Third Infantry Division to crack and it was captured by the Seventh Infantry during the "breakthrough" operations.

Many of the toughest and bitterest battles were fought during the war for small and seemingly insignificant places. Cisterna and Liberi in southern Italy, Ponte Rotto and the Windmill on the Anzio Beachhead, and the crossroads of Le Haute Jacques with its three houses located in the Vosges Mountains were a few such places which demanded a heavy toll before being wrenched from the enemy's grasp.

COST OF THE WAR TO THE 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION AND 7th UNITED STATES INFANTRY

At a press conference on 31 May 1945 Acting Secretary of War Patterson reported the casualties suffered by various Infantry divisions in their campaigns against Germany and her European allies. As the war in Europe had finished early that month the figures he gave were only preliminary ones based on reports through 30 April. The final figures probably do not show a change in the position of the Third Infantry Division. His report of 31 May 1945 is here quoted:²

	Killed	Wounded	Missing	Total
3rd Infantry Division	6,240	24,793	3,191	34,224
45th Infantry Division	3,747	19,413	4,403	27,553
36th Infantry Division	3,974	19,052	4,317	27,343
9th Infantry Division	3,834	17,424	1,466	22,724
4th Infantry Division	3,808	16,951	791	21,550

The reader will note that the five divisions listed above as having sustained the most casualties of all the divisions which participated in the campaigns of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Opera-

tions were regular Infantry divisions. There was not a special organization like airborne, paratroop, armored or mountain Infantry divisions included. Nor was there a glamor division included in the lot. The first four divisions listed all fought in Africa, Sicily, or Italy, or a combination of those places before fighting in France and Germany. The 3rd Infantry Division was the only one to fight in all those places. The 9th Division fought in Africa and Sicily but then pulled out and went to England to wait for the Normandy invasion. The 45th started its fighting in Sicily and the 36th started its battles in Italy. The 4th Division was the only one of the first five listed that did not fight in the African and Mediterranean campaigns. However it made the Normandy invasion as an assault division and for the number of days the division was in the lines it probably suffered as large a percentage of casualties as did the 3rd Division.

While the Third Infantry Division led all divisions of the several armies in regard to casualties, the Seventh United States Infantry led all units of the division in the same field. The main reason for that was that the Seventh Infantry was used in assault for all major operations of the division when the most casualties were suffered. The other two regiments of the division, the 15th and 30th, had large casualty figures but they do not equal those suffered by the 7th Infantry.³ At least 2130 deaths were suffered by Seventh Infantry personnel. That figure is not final. It may grow larger as information regarding men missing in action becomes known. More than 10,000 casualties were suffered by the Seventh Infantry during World War II, which is a stupendous figure when one considers the normal strength of an Infantry regiment during this last war was 3,040 officers and men. Only a few divisions suffered more than 10,000 casualties. It is not known whether there was a regiment which suffered more casualties than did the Seventh Infantry but it is doubted.

² Bulletin, Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, Wash., D. C., Vol. 2, No. 5, May '45.

³ Battle casualties of the 30th Infantry were 1876 killed, 644 missing, 5788 wounded or a total of 8308. Prohmc, "Hist. of the 30th Inf. Regt., World War II", Inf. Journal Press, '47, p. 387.

WORLD WAR II CASUALTY TABLE FOR THE SEVENTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY

Campaigns ¹	KIA ²	DOW ³	DOI ⁴	MIA ⁵	SWA ⁶	LWA ⁷	POW ⁸	SIA ⁹	LIA ¹⁰	Totals
French Moroccan (8-11 Nov. 1942)	46	3	0	4	79	66	0	0	0	198
Tunisian (6-13 May 1943)	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	5
Sicilian (10 July-17 Aug. 1943)	120	29	2	28	338	156	11	8	0	692
Southern Italy (22 Sept.-17 Nov. 1943)	248	29	1	33	151	521	41	2	67	1,093
Anzio-Rome (22 Jan.-4 June 1944)	657	65	6	205	687	1,247	258	19	178	3,322
From the Riviera to the Rhine (15 Aug.-20 Dec. 1944)	470	42	7	143	535	1,342	87	4	98	2,728
Colmar Pocket (21 Dec. 1944-18 Feb. 1945)	173	25	1	38	165	483	23	4	49	961
German (15 Mar.-4 May 1945)	167	12	5	17	173	589	222	1	38	1,224
Between campaigns or after termina- tion of war in Europe	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Totals	1,883	205	43	468	2,128	4,407	642	38	430	10,244

¹ Dates indicate the first and last days that the 7th Infantry participated in the respective campaigns. ² Killed in action. ³ Died of wounds. ⁴ Died of injuries. ⁵ Missing in action. ⁶ Seriously wounded in action. ⁷ Lightly wounded in action. ⁸ Prisoners of war. ⁹ Seriously injured in action. ¹⁰ Lightly injured in action.

Of the units comprising the Seventh Infantry the rifle companies were hardest hit because of their forward positions. The heavy weapons companies were next in line for most casualties sustained and were followed by the command groups. The safest place to be in the Regiment was in Service Company.

Over three-fourths of the deaths suffered by Seventh Infantrymen during the war were suffered by Privates and Privates First Class. Of the officers who died over 80% were Second and First Lieutenants.

A study of the table showing the running tally of deaths to Seventh Infantry personnel will also tell the days when the Regiment was most heavily engaged.

An attempt was made to compile a table which would show the casualties for Regimental Combat Team 7 but due to the rapid breakup of the team after 4 May 1945, the redeployment of the personnel, and the demobilization of many of the units, that was not possible. The necessary figures could not be secured from the War Department in time to be included in this volume.

The Seventh Infantry is greatly indebted to the supporting and attached combat and service units which rendered heroic and untiring efforts to support and serve the Regiment during World War II combat. The many accomplishments of the Regiment could not have been attained without the loyal and efficient support of those units.

Nine officers and 52 enlisted men of the 10th Field Artillery Battalion, and 25 enlisted men of Company "A", 10th Engineers, are definitely known to have sacrificed their lives during the war just ended. Their names are listed with the glorious dead. Many men from those units were wounded but the numbers are not known. Heavier casualties in killed and wounded were suffered by Company "A", 756th Tank Battalion, Company "A", 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, the Detachment, 441st Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, Company "A", 3rd Medical Battalion, and the various chemical mortar units which supported the Regiment, but the numbers and names are not known.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY UNITS¹

Units	Men	Officers	Total
Rifle Companies			
Company "A"	183	15	198
Company "B"	138	6	144
Company "C"	177	10	187
Company "E"	210	5	215
Company "F"	173	6	179
Company "G"	160	5	165
Company "I"	147	7	154
Company "K"	176	11	187
Company "L"	167	9	176
Heavy Weapons Companies			
Company "D"	94	4	98
Company "H"	68	4	72
Company "M"	84	9	93
Headquarters Groups			
First Battalion	57	7	64
Second Battalion	39	2	41
Third Battalion	37	2	39
Regimental ²	29	7	36
Other Units			
Medical Detachment	51	0	51
Anti-Tank Company	15	4	19
Cannon Company	8	2	10
Service Company	3	0	3
Totals	2016	115	2131

¹ Includes those known to have been killed or died of wounds received in action and died of injuries but does not include those who were listed as missing in action and after a year were declared dead by the War Department. Also table does not include all who may have died of wounds received because when men were wounded and evacuated they were officially transferred from the Regiment. In cases where seriously wounded personnel died quite some time after being evacuated no records of their deaths were received by the 7th Infantry.

² Regimental Headquarters Group includes the Regimental Field and Staff, the Regimental Battle Patrol and Regimental Headquarters Company.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY GRADE OR RANK

Grades	Totals
Privates	894
Privates First Class	747
Technicians Fifth Grade	32
Corporals	59
Technicians Fourth Grade	8
Sergeants	145
Staff Sergeants	100
Technical Sergeants	21
Master Sergeants	1
First Sergeants	9
Second Lieutenants	48
First Lieutenants	49
Captains	16
Lieutenant Colonels	2
Totals	2131

RUNNING TALLY OF DEATHS TO SEVENTH INFANTRY PERSONNEL DURING WORLD WAR II

FRENCH MOROCCAN CAMPAIGN

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
8 Nov. '42	15	African Invasion
9 Nov. '42	2	African Invasion
10 Nov. '42	26	Attack on Casablanca
11 Nov. '42	3	Attack on Casablanca
12 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
14 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
23 Nov. '42	1	Died of wounds
29 Dec. '42	1	Died of wounds
30 Dec. '42	1	Died of wounds
25 Feb. '43	1	Died of injuries
18 April '43	2	Died of injuries

TUNISIAN CAMPAIGN

12 May '43	1	Reserve
13 May '43	1	Reserve
30 May '43	1	Died of injuries
27 June '43	1	Died of injuries

SICILIAN CAMPAIGN

10 July '43	22	Invasion
13 July '43	2	Pursuit action
16 July '43	7	Pursuit action
20 July '43	1	Pursuit action
21 July '43	1	Pursuit action
3 Aug. '43	1	Pursuit action
8 Aug. '43	4	Pursuit action
9 Aug. '43	31	Fight for Hill di Marco
10 Aug. '43	39	Fight for Hill di Marco
11 Aug. '43	23	Fight for Hill di Marco
12 Aug. '43	4	Pursuit action
13 Aug. '43	3	Pursuit action
15 Aug. '43	8	Pursuit action
16 Aug. '43	3	Pursuit action
17 Aug. '43	2	Pursuit action
19 Aug. '43	1	Pursuit action
3 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action

NAPLES FOGGIA OR SOUTHERN ITALY CAMPAIGN

22 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action
24 Sept. '43	8	Pursuit action
26 Sept. '43	3	Pursuit action
27 Sept. '43	2	Pursuit action

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death	Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
28 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action	18 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
29 Sept. '43	3	Pursuit action	21 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
30 Sept. '43	1	Pursuit action	22 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
2 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	23 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
3 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	24 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
5 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	25 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
7 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	26 Mar. '44	2	Defensive warfare
8 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	13 April '44	2	Defensive warfare
10 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	14 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
12 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	17 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
13 Oct. '43	41	Volturmo Crossing	18 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
14 Oct. '43	7	Pursuit action	19 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
15 Oct. '43	14	Enemy counterattacks	20 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
16 Oct. '43	47	Enemy counterattacks	21 April '44	5	Defensive warfare
17 Oct. '43	5	Pursuit action	22 April '44	3	Defensive warfare
18 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	23 April '44	4	Defensive warfare
19 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	24 April '44	7	Defensive warfare
20 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	25 April '44	1	Defensive warfare
21 Oct. '43	6	Pursuit action	26 April '44	2	Defensive warfare
22 Oct. '43	3	Pursuit action	28 April '44	3	Defensive warfare
23 Oct. '43	7	Pursuit action	5 May '44	1	Defensive warfare
24 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	12 May '44	1	Defensive warfare
26 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	22 May '44	2	Defensive warfare
27 Oct. '43	2	Pursuit action	23 May '44	54	Breakthrough operations
28 Oct. '43	4	Pursuit action	24 May '44	38	Breakthrough operations
29 Oct. '43	1	Pursuit action	25 May '44	24	Breakthrough operations
1 Nov. '43	5	Pursuit action	26 May '44	6	Push to Rome
2 Nov. '43	2	Pursuit action	27 May '44	10	Push to Rome
3 Nov. '43	10	Attack on Barbara Line	28 May '44	18	Push to Rome
4 Nov. '43	11	Attack on Barbara Line	29 May '44	6	Push to Rome
5 Nov. '43	12	Attack on Barbara Line	30 May '44	6	Push to Rome
6 Nov. '43	18	Attack on Barbara Line	31 May '44	18	Push to Rome
7 Nov. '43	3	Attack on Barbara Line	1 June '44	24	Push to Rome
8 Nov. '43	6	Attack on Barbara Line	2 June '44	7	Push to Rome
9 Nov. '43	6	Attack on Barbara Line	3 June '44	18	Push to Rome
11 Nov. '43	12	Attack on Barbara Line	4 June '44	6	Push to Rome
13 Nov. '43	2	Attack on Barbara Line	5 June '44	2	Died of wounds
14 Nov. '43	1	Attack on Barbara Line	7 June '44	2	Died of wounds
16 Nov. '43	7	Attack on Barbara Line	17 June '44	1	Died of wounds
1 Dec. '43	1	Died of wounds	19 June '44	1	Died of wounds
25 Dec. '43	1	Died of wounds	21 June '44	1	Died of wounds

ANZIO-ROME CAMPAIGN

22 Jan. '44	10	Nettuno Landing
23 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
26 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
27 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
28 Jan. '44	1	Consolidation of beachhead
30 Jan. '44	42	Attack for Cisterna di Littoria
31 Jan. '44	53	Major German counterattack
1 Feb. '44	16	Major German counterattack
2 Feb. '44	54	Major German counterattack
3 Feb. '44	8	Defensive warfare
4 Feb. '44	3	Defensive warfare
5 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
6 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
7 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
8 Feb. '44	5	Defensive warfare
10 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
11 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
13 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
14 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
16 Feb. '44	28	Major German counterattack
17 Feb. '44	5	Defensive warfare
18 Feb. '44	3	Defensive warfare
19 Feb. '44	9	Defensive warfare
20 Feb. '44	6	Defensive warfare
21 Feb. '44	4	Defensive warfare
22 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
23 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
24 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
25 Feb. '44	2	Defensive warfare
26 Feb. '44	1	Defensive warfare
29 Feb. '44	34	Major German counterattack
1 Mar. '44	24	Major German counterattack
2 Mar. '44	11	Major German counterattack
3 Mar. '44	20	Major German counterattack
4 Mar. '44	27	Major German counterattack
5 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
6 Mar. '44	9	Defensive warfare
7 Mar. '44	4	Defensive warfare
8 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
9 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
11 Mar. '44	3	Defensive warfare
12 Mar. '44	6	Defensive warfare
13 Mar. '44	5	Defensive warfare
14 Mar. '44	1	Defensive warfare
16 Mar. '44	2	Defensive warfare

FROM THE RIVIERA TO THE RHINE

15 Aug. '44	58	Invasion
16 Aug. '44	5	Pursuit action
17 Aug. '44	3	Pursuit action
18 Aug. '44	5	Pursuit action
19 Aug. '44	1	Pursuit action
21 Aug. '44	2	Pursuit action
22 Aug. '44	1	Pursuit action
23 Aug. '44	3	Pursuit action
28 Aug. '44	4	Pursuit action
29 Aug. '44	7	Pursuit action
2 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
4 Sept. '44	2	Pursuit action
5 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
6 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
7 Sept. '44	6	Pursuit action
9 Sept. '44	5	Pursuit action
10 Sept. '44	5	Pursuit action
11 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
12 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
13 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
14 Sept. '44	11	Pursuit action
15 Sept. '44	20	Fight for Vy-les-Lure
16 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
18 Sept. '44	1	Pursuit action
20 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
21 Sept. '44	6	Pursuit action
22 Sept. '44	8	Pursuit action
24 Sept. '44	4	Pursuit action
25 Sept. '44	7	Pursuit action
26 Sept. '44	3	Pursuit action
27 Sept. '44	10	Fight for Rupt-sur-Moselle and
28 Sept. '44	3	Ferdrupt
29 Sept. '44	7	Fight for Rupt-sur-Moselle and
30 Sept. '44	13	Ferdrupt
1 Oct. '44	7	Pursuit action
3 Oct. '44	1	Pursuit action
4 Oct. '44	3	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
5 Oct. '44	9	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
6 Oct. '44	15	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
7 Oct. '44	11	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
8 Oct. '44	6	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
9 Oct. '44	3	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
10 Oct. '44	2	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
11 Oct. '44	1	Fight for Vagney and Sapois
13 Oct. '44	1	Defensive warfare

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death	Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
14 Oct. '44	2	Defensive warfare	26 Mar. '45	24	Rhine Crossing
15 Oct. '44	1	Defensive warfare	27 Mar. '45	6	Pursuit action
20 Oct. '44	7	Pursuit action	28 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
21 Oct. '44	10	Pursuit action	29 Mar. '45	1	Pursuit action
22 Oct. '44	14	Pursuit action	31 Mar. '45	7	Pursuit action
23 Oct. '44	2	Pursuit action	2 April '45	4	Pursuit action
24 Oct. '44	2	Pursuit action	5 April '45	4	Pursuit action
25 Oct. '44	11	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	6 April '45	2	Pursuit action
26 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	8 April '45	6	Pursuit action
27 Oct. '44	5	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	9 April '45	4	Pursuit action
28 Oct. '44	5	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	10 April '45	2	Pursuit action
29 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	11 April '45	2	Pursuit action
30 Oct. '44	8	Fighting in Mortagne River Valley	12 April '45	1	Pursuit action
31 Oct. '44	11	Attack on Le Haute Jacques	14 April '45	1	Pursuit action
1 Nov. '44	6	Attack on Le Haute Jacques	15 April '45	1	Pursuit action
2 Nov. '44	6	Attack on Le Haute Jacques	16 April '45	6	Battle of Nurnberg
3 Nov. '44	20	Attack on Le Haute Jacques	17 April '45	2	Battle of Nurnberg
4 Nov. '44	16	Attack on Le Haute Jacques	18 April '45	6	Battle of Nurnberg
5 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action	19 April '45	4	Battle of Nurnberg
6 Nov. '44	3	Pursuit action	20 April '45	2	Battle of Nurnberg
7 Nov. '44	2	Pursuit action	21 April '45	1	Guarding mission
8 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action	22 April '45	1	Guarding mission
9 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action	26 April '45	2	Pursuit action
10 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare	27 April '45	2	Pursuit action
11 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare	29 April '45	1	Pursuit action
13 Nov. '44	1	Defensive warfare	3 May '45	2	Pursuit action
20 Nov. '44	31	Meurthe Crossing	4 May '45	1	Capture of Salzburg and Berchtesgaden
21 Nov. '44	8	Pursuit action	12 May '45	1	Died of injuries
22 Nov. '44	9	Pursuit action	4 June '45	1	Died of injuries
23 Nov. '44	8	Pursuit action	13 June '45	1	Died of wounds
24 Nov. '44	4	Pursuit action	14 July '45	2	Died of injuries
29 Nov. '44	2	Pursuit action	30 July '45	2	Died of injuries
30 Nov. '44	1	Pursuit action	7 Aug. '45	1	Died of injuries
1 Dec. '44	9	Apartment House Battle	17 Sept. '45	1	Died of injuries
2 Dec. '44	1	Apartment House Battle			
8 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine			
9 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine			
11 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine			
20 Dec. '44	1	Watch on the Rhine			

Total 2131

SEVENTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY WAS AN ALL-AMERICAN REGIMENT

In times past the Seventh Infantry has been thought of as a "southern regiment" because of its nickname of the "Cotton Baler" Regiment. Also it has been thought of as a "western regiment" because during the period between the two world wars it was stationed for the most part in the western parts of the country. The Regiment has been in continuous Federal service since 1808 and served in the same service from 1798 to 1800. It has always been All-American and especially was that so during the great war just ended. Men from every State of the Union and the District of Columbia served with the Regiment in World War II and some from each state and the district lost their lives.

NUMBERS OF 7th INFANTRY PERSONNEL KNOWN TO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II LISTED BY STATES OF THE UNION FROM WHICH THEY CAME

States	Totals
New York	243
Pennsylvania	210
Ohio	135
Illinois	132
Massachusetts	106
Michigan	92
New Jersey	86
California	74
Kentucky	71
Indiana	61
North Carolina	59
Tennessee	52
Texas	50
Virginia	49
Wisconsin	48
Alabama	44
West Virginia	42
Minnesota	38
Missouri	36
Maryland	34
Washington	34
Georgia	32

COLMAR POCKET CAMPAIGN

24 Dec. '44	1	Defensive warfare
26 Dec. '44	1	Defensive warfare
28 Dec. '44	3	Defensive warfare
31 Dec. '44	2	Defensive warfare
1 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
2 Jan. '45	3	Defensive warfare
4 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
5 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
6 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
8 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
9 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
14 Jan. '45	2	Defensive warfare
15 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
16 Jan. '45	7	Raid in Force
17 Jan. '45	3	Defensive warfare
18 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
20 Jan. '45	1	Defensive warfare
22 Jan. '45	5	La Fecht Crossing
23 Jan. '45	26	First Attack
24 Jan. '45	10	First Attack
25 Jan. '45	23	First Attack
26 Jan. '45	6	First Attack
27 Jan. '45	5	First Attack
29 Jan. '45	5	First Attack
30 Jan. '45	20	Crossing of Canal de Colmar
31 Jan. '45	8	Second Attack
1 Feb. '45	4	Second Attack
3 Feb. '45	27	Third Attack
4 Feb. '45	4	Third Attack
5 Feb. '45	14	Third Attack
6 Feb. '45	4	Third Attack
9 Feb. '45	1	Watch on the Rhine
17 Feb. '45	2	Watch on the Rhine
18 Feb. '45	1	Watch on the Rhine

GERMAN CAMPAIGN

12 Mar. '45	2	Drowning accident
14 Mar. '45	2	Entry into Germany
15 Mar. '45	35	Entry into Germany
16 Mar. '45	7	Pursuit action
17 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
18 Mar. '45	19	Siegfried Line Attack
19 Mar. '45	15	Siegfried Line Attack
20 Mar. '45	2	Pursuit action
21 Mar. '45	3	Pursuit action
24 Mar. '45	1	Pursuit action

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
Connecticut	31	
Arkansas	26	
Florida	23	
South Carolina	23	
Kansas	21	
Oklahoma	21	
Iowa	20	
Nebraska	20	
Oregon	19	
Maine	18	
Colorado	17	
North Dakota	16	
Mississippi	15	
Rhode Island	14	
New Hampshire	13	

Date	No. of Deaths	Type of Operation or Cause of Death
Montana	12	
South Dakota	12	
District of Columbia	10	
Louisiana	10	
Idaho	8	
Utah	8	
New Mexico	7	
Vermont	6	
Arizona	5	
Delaware	5	
Nevada	5	
Wyoming	3	
Address Unknown	15	
Totals	2131	



A few of the officers and men who served with the Regiment during World War II are shown above. Top row, left to right: Maj. Carroll A. Plaquet; S-4, 2d Bn., 18 Nov. 1940 to 15 Nov. 1941; C. O. Sv. Co., 15 Nov. 1941 to June 1942; S-1, 7th Inf., 3 to 8 Aug. 1942; Ex. O., 3d Bn., 8 Aug. 1942 to 4 Mar. 1943; C. O. 3d Bn., 4 Mar. to 31 May 1943; Ex. O., 3d Bn., 1 Sept. to 23 Oct. 1943. 1 Lt. (later Capt.) Irving R. Wyeth; Pl. Ldr., Co. "A", 30 July to 1 Sept. 1942; Pl. Ldr., Co. "D", 1 Sept. to 21 Dec. 1942; S-2, 1st Bn., 21 Dec. 1942 to 26 Aug. 1943; C. O. Co. "C", 26 Aug. to 26 Dec. 1943 when hospitalized; C. O. Co. "B", 10 to 14 Mar. 1944 when W. I. A.; Ass't S-3, 7th Inf., 21 June to 1 Aug. 1944; S-3, 7th Inf., 1 Aug. to 15 Sept. 1944. Lt. Col. James E. Breth, Regt'l Ex. O., 7 to 11 Jan. 1944. Lt. Col. Victor E. Sinclair, Regt'l Ex. O., 17 June to 2 Sept. 1944. Bottom row, left to right: 1 Lt. Nathan N. White, Liaison O., Regt'l F. & S. T/5 Don Cheperka, S-3 Sect., & Map Maker. Pfc. John F. Fitterer, Co. "I" and Map Maker. Pfc. Raymond J. Thornburg, Co. "B".

IN MEMORIAM

Glorious Dead of the Seventh United States Infantry for World War II

KILLED IN ACTION

French Moroccan and Tunisian Campaign

8 NOVEMBER 1942

BORGSMANN, John W., Pfc., 35118717, Med. Det., Cincinnati, Ohio.
 CHAN, John J., Pvt., 39084884, Co. "K", Sacramento, California.
 CLAXTON, John H., Pvt., 35011078, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
 FALTER, Clement M., 1st Lt., 0-439177, Chaplain, Delphos, Ohio.
 FLEGE, Emil W., Pfc., 35118693, Med. Det., Reading, Ohio.
 GETTYS, Wilburn G., Pvt., 14073995, Co. "M", Concord, North Carolina.
 GONA, Richard, Pfc., 35010621, Co. "F", Cleveland, Ohio.
 JACKSON, Oral B., Sgt., 19011404, Co. "A", Jerome, Idaho.
 LEAHY, Patrick E., Pfc., 6577942, Co. "M", San Francisco, California.
 MARSHALL, William H., Pvt., 35201878, Co. "A", Dewood, West Virginia.
 McWILLIAMS, Burnham E., Pfc., 35101351, Co. "M", Louisville, Kentucky.
 SANDUSKY, Joseph G., Pvt., 7032906, Co. "M", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
 STEPHENS, John R., Pfc., 37176287, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co.
 TILLEY, William M., 2nd Lt., 0-1287789, Co. "C", Orange, Texas.
 TROY, Thomas M., Pvt., 38117001, Med. Det., Garner, Texas.

9 NOVEMBER 1942

LEACH, Paul E., Cpl., 6957109, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kansas City, Kansas.
 WILSON, Roy W., Pfc., 38118577, Co. "C", Sardinia, Ohio.

10 NOVEMBER 1942

BOOK, Eugene O., Pvt., 17003768, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 BRAY, William H., Pfc., 18031830, Co. "L", Tahleah, Oklahoma.
 BRUNO, Alfred T., Pfc., 35010733, Co. "E", East Palestine, Ohio.
 BUCKHOLT, Laverne M., Pvt., 37191571, Regtl. Hqrs. Co.
 CASTELL, John C., Capt., 0-305675, Co. "F", Princeton, Missouri.
 CHEEVER, Joseph E., 1st Lt., 0-1293346, Co. "E", Provo, Utah.
 EDMARK, Percy G., Pfc., 37030236, Co. "E", Hibbing, Minnesota.
 FELICKO, John, Cpl., 35010805, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
 GALL, Harry, Pvt., 19016472, Co. "L", Tacoma, Washington.
 GONZALEZ, Pedro, Cpl., 6216202, Co. "E", Abilene, Texas.
 JACKSON, Henry T., Pfc., 19010264, Co. "E", Salt Lake City, Utah.
 KLEMM, Robert O., Pvt., 36509569, Co. "E", Bay City, Indiana.
 KURDELL, Joseph G., Cpl., 6920462, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 LUTTRELL, Walter C., Pfc., 35101263, Co. "L", Hustonsville, Kentucky.
 MARININ, Michael R., Pfc., 7031328, Co. "F", Crystal Falls, Michigan.
 MENTER, John R., Pvt., 19018453, Co. "B", Glendive, Montana.
 NADEL, Arnold, Pvt., 39161203, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
 NIELSEN, Robert K., Pfc., 19014713, Co. "E", Nappa, Idaho.
 ORR, Leonard W., Pfc., 19014073, Co. "E", Crawford, Nebraska.
 PENNISI, Joseph S., Pvt., 32353152, Co. "F", Newburgh, New York.
 RITTENHOUSE, Stanley, Pfc., 35118797, Co. "L", Bainbridge, Ohio.
 ROBERTS, Laverne F., Pvt., 36302297, Co. "M", Alton, Illinois.
 SCHMER, Wayne D., Sgt., 6954176, Co. "F", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
 TREDWAY, Herman L., Cpl., 35153438, Co. "G", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 VESTAL, Edwin J., Pfc., 18017627, Co. "E", Randall, Kansas.
 WETZEL, Orville D., Pfc., 37014222, Co. "E", Tribune, Kansas.

11 NOVEMBER 1942

CONSTABLE, Robert L., Pfc., 35153454, Co. "E", Hartford City, Indiana.
 KINNEAR, Robert M., O. Sgt., 17001638, Co. "C", White, Alvin C., Sgt., Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Vale, Oregon.

12 NOVEMBER 1942

BAILEY, Theodore, Pvt., 35010683, Co. "E", Alliance, Ohio.

14 NOVEMBER 1942

CORTEZ, Louis, Pfc., 18017625, Co. "G", Flagstaff, Arizona.

23 NOVEMBER 1942

HINKLEY, Woodrow D., Pvt., 19012628, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Eureka, California.

12 MAY 1943

MOORE, Marion E., Pvt., 19046087, Co. "B", Los Angeles, California.

13 MAY 1943

BARTLETT, Andrew F., Pfc., 34125897, Co. "E", Black Mountain, North Carolina.

Sicilian Campaign

10 JULY 1943

AVALLONE, Anthony V., Pvt., 32347600, Co. "C", New York, New York.
 BOYD, James A., Capt., 0-392508, Co. "E", Huron, South Dakota.
 BARATSOS, Harry A., Pvt., 36048761, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 CULLOP, Roy W., Pvt., 36049567, Co. "D", East Saint Louis, Illinois.
 DE WINTER, Frank J., Pfc., 36185049, Co. "C", Norway, Michigan.
 FRENCH, James H., Sgt., 19016467, Co. "C", Tacoma, Washington.
 HARMON, J. V., Cpl., 35118674, Co. "C", Lockland, Ohio.
 HARRIS, Woodward, Pvt., 34288473, Co. "G", Norfolk, Virginia.
 HELT, Paul A., Pfc., 13090375, Co. "C", Lynkens, Pennsylvania.
 JOHNSON, William, Jr., Pfc., 7032821, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 KEHLER, Harry G., Pvt., 12086180, Co. "C", Egg Harbor City, New Jersey.
 KEY, Jack D., Pvt., 34520249, Co. "C", Moneville, Tennessee.
 KINIRY, Edward J., Pvt., 31109355, Co. "C", Northwopole, North Carolina.
 LYONS, Ballard J., Pfc., 6559568, Co. "C", Woodway, Virginia.
 McNAMARA, Timothy J., Pvt., 12181216, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 MITCHELL, Elmo, Pfc., 19012425, Co. "C", Atkins, Oklahoma.
 SCHATZ, Louis, Pvt., 32621665, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 SHANNON, Glen L., Pvt., 6560740, Co. "G", North Hollywood, California.
 SLAVICK, Joseph A., Pvt., 33356985, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hazelton, Pennsylvania.
 SOTO, Hector M., Pvt., 12087933, Co. "D", New York, New York.
 TAYLOR, Bruce K., Pvt., 33243633, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Nork Haven, Pennsylvania.
 WALTERS, Paul M., Pfc., 35330525, Co. "C", Lakeville, Indiana.

13 JULY 1943

AUWARTER, Henry D., Pvt., 37443597, Co. "C", Fort Madison, Iowa.
 BROWN, James A., S/Sgt., 35153621, Co. "D", Rolling Prairie, Indiana.

16 JULY 1943

ALDER, Arthur H., T/5, 33202127, Med. Det., Baltimore, Maryland.
 BAILLARGON, Maurice, Pvt., 32371095, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Waterford, New York.
 BATEMAN, Edward A., Pfc., 33202692, Co. "A", Swanton, Maryland.
 FORBES, Sanford M., Sgt., 7033596, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 PERRY, Vernon C., T/5, 37036040, Co. "C", Sac City, Iowa.
 WAGNER, Herman E., Capt., 0-17300, Co. "C", Seattle, Washington.
 WILLIAMS, John O., Lt.-Col., 0-17300, RF and S., San Antonio, Texas.

20 JULY 1943

BARNES, Lloyd C., S/Sgt., 6570082, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Portland, Oregon.

8 AUGUST 1943

HOFFMEISTER, Walter R., Pvt., 32622970, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
 McLAIN, Pearl, Pvt., 38321449, Co. "G", Ramona, Oklahoma.
 ROBBINS, Alvin J., Pvt., 39688081, Co. "F", Richmond, California.
 SCHUSTER, Joseph Jr., Pfc., 12048874, Co. "F", Trenton, New Jersey.

9 AUGUST 1943

AUSTRICK, Albert B., Pvt., 33317666, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 BOSAK, Michael, Cpl., 35010964, Co. "G", Mingo Junction, Ohio.
 BUNTING, Herbert J., Pfc., 35201931, Co. "A", Batesville, Ohio.
 CAMP, George, Pfc., 35010944, Co. "G", Alliance, Ohio.
 CULP, Adam, Pfc., 35118803, Co. "L", Sciotoville, Ohio.
 DUBIAK, Norman A., Pfc., 35010858, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.
 DUNKELBERGER, Daniel L., 1st Lt., 0-1294634, Co. "L", Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania.
 FISHER, Allan R., Pfc., 17013430, Co. "H", Ola, Arkansas.
 FOWLER, Herman G., Sgt., 6934448, Co. "L", Ward, Arkansas.
 GRECO, Thomas J., Pvt., 33269747, Co. "I", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 GREENWOOD, John F., Pfc., 16005411, Co. "A", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 GREIDER, Harold L., Pvt., 35346226, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Piercetia, Indiana.
 HAINES, Bogan, Pfc., 34175315, Co. "L", Laurinburg, North Carolina.
 HESSER, Norman C., Pvt., 33256280, Co. "G", Mat-towana, Pennsylvania.
 HLINKA, Joseph, Pvt., 13152525, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 KEELER, Marcus E., Pfc., 19016409, Co. "A", Port Orchard, Washington.
 KRUEGER, Paul A., Pfc., 37180675, Co. "I", St. Louis, Missouri.
 LONG, Theodore W., Pvt., 33344519, Co. "L", Lewisville, Pennsylvania.
 MALZ, Edward H., Pvt., 35532464, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Euclid, Ohio.
 MILLER, Louis H., Pfc., 35118667, Co. "I", Cincinnati, Ohio.
 NEIDLINGER, George R., Sgt., 35011101, Co. "L", Akron, Ohio.
 NEWMAN, Robert C., Pvt., 35504856, Co. "I", Pellville, Kentucky.
 PORTER, Russell H., Pfc., 35201964, Co. "I", South Shore, Kentucky.
 STEWART, Wayne S., Pvt., 34490770, Co. "F", Bristol, Tennessee.
 SUREAN, Lyle N., Pfc., 19071529, Co. "F", Havre, Montana.
 SWANK, Robert E., Pvt., 37236429, Co. "L", Ottowa, Kansas.
 THOMPSON, Robert R., Pfc., 35118650, Co. "K", Arcanum, Ohio.
 TROUSIL, John, Pvt., 36280351, Co. "F", Kewanee, Wisconsin.
 VOLLMAR, Chester G., Pvt., 37127951, Co. "B", Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
 WAZNY, Casimir P., Pvt., 36354952, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
 WEST, Coolidge T., Pvt., 34437195, Co. "G", Lenoir, North Carolina.

10 AUGUST 1943

BAGGS, Robert W., Pfc., 32538834, Co. "K", Queens Village, New York.
 BRAY, Herman E., Pvt., 35460330, Co. "A", Crummes, Kentucky.
 CLEVELAND, Benjamin W., Jr., Sgt., 6579028, Co. "H", Portland, Oregon.
 CLYBURN, Luther J., Pfc., 35346429, Co. "A", Ligonier, Indiana.
 CORSARO, James, Pvt., 35518891, Co. "A", Cleveland, Ohio.
 CRAWFORD, Vincent G., Pvt., 17006056, Co. "F", Bismarck, North Dakota.
 D'ARDIA, Fred R., Pfc., 12165610, Co. "B", Paterson, New Jersey.
 DAVIS, Eugene A., Pvt., 6934902, Co. "B", Kansas City, Missouri.
 DUFFY, Daniel T., Cpl., 35010397, Co. "B", Cleveland, Ohio.

FELTNER, Herman, Pfc., 35471196, Co. "B", Busy, Kentucky.
 FOOTE, Glenn S., S/Sgt., 6575615, Co. "C", Princeton, Minnesota.
 FREEMAN, Daniel E., Pvt., 17010901, Co. "B", Dighton, Kansas.
 GEHMAN, Webster, Pfc., 33233288, Co. "B", Bowmansville, Pennsylvania.
 GREENWOOD, Percy J., Pfc., 36127875, Co. "C", Bay City, Michigan.
 GUNKEL, Raymond B., Pvt., 35668599, Co. "E", Melbourne, Kentucky.
 HALLETT, Linn W., Jr., Pvt., 33356997, Co. "F", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 HAMMON, Frank E., Pfc., 16146718, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
 HEYLMUN, Leroy J., Pvt., 35741733, Co. "B", Piedmont, West Virginia.
 HOLMES, Richard B., Pvt., 13153213, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HUMPHREY, Roy W., Pvt., 15102940, Co. "G", Miami, Florida.
 JONES, Roy E., Pfc., 35668202, Co. "K", Norwood, Ohio.
 KATZ, Herman, Pvt., 32307194, Med. Det., Newark, New York.
 LANDRUS, Raymond J., Pvt., 20700565, Co. "L", St. Cloud, Minnesota.
 LARSON, Hans L., S/Sgt., 17006107, Sv. Co., Watford City, North Dakota.
 MARONE, Michael J., Pfc., 17001145, Co. "D", Owatonna, Minnesota.
 MILLS, Earl W., Sgt., 17012664, Co. "C", Clear Lake, South Dakota.
 MORTON, James R., Sgt., 35010928, 1st Bn. Hqs., Co., Medina, Ohio.
 MURPHY, Paul C., 1st Lt., 0-1295254, Co. "I", Fairmont, Minnesota.
 OLVIS, Harvey E., S/Sgt., 35118783, Co. "K", Dayton, Ohio.
 PATTERSON, Orville J., Pfc., 35518801, Co. "M", Cleveland, Ohio.
 PIERCE, Frank C., Pvt., 15117737, Co. "K", Dayton, Ohio.
 PUTNAM, John E., 1st Lt., 0-419404, Co. "M", Seattle, Washington.
 RICHMOND, Burl G., Pvt., 35637131, Co. "B", Pluto, West Virginia.
 SHORT, Harlan, Pfc., 35101242, Co. "L", Vernon, Indiana.
 SHOWERS, Leroy B., Pfc., 33233247, Co. "A", Stevens, Pennsylvania.
 TERRY, Wirt B., Pfc., 38116639, Co. "B", Savoy, Texas.
 TODESCO, Pasquale A., Pvt., 31135255, Co. "B", Boston, Massachusetts.
 WENDT, Herman A., Pvt., 6579519, Med. Det., Fargo, North Dakota.
 WYATT, Henry J., Jr., Pfc., 6956057, Co. "M", Franklin, Arizona.

11 AUGUST 1943

BARAN, Thomas S., Pfc., 33246528, Co. "B", Black Lick, Pennsylvania.
 BOONE, Carl W., S/Sgt., 18016505, Co. "K", Lubbock, Texas.
 COX, Kenneth R., T/4, 6825259, Co. "B", Omaha, Nebraska.
 DINGUS, Henry M., Pfc., 34571432, Co. "E", Broxton, Georgia.
 FOURNIER, Leon W., Pfc., 31078388, Co. "I", Lowell, Massachusetts.
 HAUTALA, Arne J., Pfc., 31133820, Co. "F", Rockport, Massachusetts.
 HODGE, Frank L., Pvt., 34437800, Co. "F", Rutherford, North Carolina.
 LOVELL, William R., Pvt., 35637114, Co. "B", Spanishburg, West Virginia.
 LYON, James A., Pfc., 16072239, Co. "I", Peoria, Illinois.
 MALONE, Leo J., Pvt., 37207035, Co. "H", Oakley, Kansas.
 MEDNICK, Milton, Pfc., 12085965, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Edgemore, Long Island, New York.
 MINTER, Ernest C., Pvt., 37368416, Co. "M", Bates City, Missouri.
 MOORE, Frank C., Pvt., 34396458, Co. "D", Grant, Alabama.
 MURDOCK, David N., 1st Lt., 0-1287749, Co. "I", Temple, Arizona.
 NELSON, Arnold G., Cpl., 37036892, Co. "B", Beresford, South Dakota.
 PEARSON, Ernest E., 1st Sgt., 6349233, Co. "B", North Port, Alabama.
 POFF, Henry E., Pvt., 36445820, Med. Det., Bradford, Illinois.
 RICHMOND, Carson D., Pvt., 35636975, Co. "B", Brighton, West Virginia.
 SASSO, Frank, Pfc., 33232658, Co. "E", Reading, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, John W., Pvt., 12172132, Co. "E", Rome, New York.
 ST. CYR, George, Pvt., 31186644, Co. "I", Greenfield, Massachusetts.
 WATTS, Franklin J., Pvt., 34316114, Co. "I", Nakina, North Carolina.
 WELLINGHAM, Alan H., Cpl., 39009909, Co. "B", Oakland, California.

12 AUGUST 1943

MEININGER, Walter W., 2nd Lt., 0-1294701, Co. "B", Louisville, Kentucky.
 MORGAN, James C., Sgt., 17011783, Co. "H", Tacoma, Washington.
 SIMON, Harold J., Pvt., 35566670, Co. "C", Detroit, Michigan.
 WIMSETT, Forrest L., Pfc., 19049321, Co. "I", Georgetown, Illinois.

13 AUGUST 1943

BURRGESS, William A., Pfc., 36049420, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 JORDAN, Roy W., Pfc., 33215479, Co. "K", Roanoke, Virginia.
 SABELIC, Mike, Pvt., 33396933, Co. "B", Midland, Pennsylvania.

15 AUGUST 1943

CARICO, Hugh V., Capt., 0-337748, Co. "C", Jackson, Minnesota.
 GAMPERL, Frank, Cpl., 35010409, Co. "C", Cleveland, Ohio.
 HAYWARD, William A., Pvt., 35404998, Co. "C", Springfield, Ohio.
 KILBURN, James R., 1st Lt., 0-463441, Co. "C", Rawlins, Wyoming.
 SMITH, Charles A., Jr., Pvt., 33490067, Co. "C", Palmerton, Pennsylvania.
 STINE, Daniel A., Pvt., 36424587, Co. "C", Ypsilanti, Michigan.
 TONER, Raymond K., Pvt., 33256286, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Lewiston, Pennsylvania.
 WILLIAMSON, Charles R., Pfc., 33346102, Co. "C", Bath, Pennsylvania.

16 AUGUST 1943

DYE, Paul H., Jr., Pvt., 14136709, Co. "F", North Augusta, South Carolina.
 OLIVER, Clyde H., Pfc., 18135979, Co. "E", Hampton, Arkansas.
 WILLIAMS, Marvin D., T/5, 6954193, Co. "F", Frederick, Oklahoma.

17 AUGUST 1943

CUPKA, John L., Cpl., 37092223, Co. "C", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

19 AUGUST 1943

DUDZIK, John, Jr., Pfc., 35010765, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.

Naples-Foggia or Southern Italy Campaign

22 SEPTEMBER 1943

BORER, Fred J., Cpl., 35010892, Co. "F", Lorain, Ohio.

24 SEPTEMBER 1943

DEYLE, Forrest B., Pfc., 12095979, Co. "M", Ilion, New York.
 DOOLEY, Frank J., T/4, 17004175, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Omaha, Nebraska.
 FISHER, Charles P., Pfc., 35118977, Co. "K", Nicholasville, Kentucky.
 KEEFER, Norman R., Pfc., 33233007, Co. "E", Upper Strasburg, Pennsylvania.
 MILLER, Paul J., Sgt., 35118784, Co. "M", Spring Valley, Ohio.
 RODGERS, William H., T/5, 35017163, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Bellevue, Ohio.
 SMITH, Nevin K., Pfc., 33243544, Co. "E", Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.
 VILCOT, Jules P., T/5, 16039966, Co. "M", Pana, Illinois.

26 SEPTEMBER 1943

CHRAPEK, Walter T., Cpl., 31126239, Co. "F", Springfield, Massachusetts.
 GEE, Albert, Pvt., 34357054, Co. "F", Cordele, Georgia.
 SCROGHINES, Raymond E., Pfc., 35696886, Co. "C", Scipio, Indiana.

27 SEPTEMBER 1943

MCCOY, Thornton D., Pvt., 37283917, Co. "E", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 RAKOWSKI, Frank H., Pfc., 35201904, Co. "A", Wierton, West Virginia.

28 SEPTEMBER 1943

WEAKLEY, Luther R., Pvt., 33455048, Co. "A", Washington, District of Columbia.

29 SEPTEMBER 1943

DOWLING, Edwin S., Jr., Pfc., 19044301, Co. "A", Draper, South Dakota.
 ELLIOTT, William F., Pvt., 6951676, Co. "I", Paris, Texas.
 HART, Loron S., Pvt., 36127861, Co. "C", Bay City, Michigan.

30 SEPTEMBER 1943

BREAZIER, Louis W., Pvt., 37207425, Co. "L", Lincoln, Kansas.

2 OCTOBER 1943

MADRICK, Frank J., Pfc., 20233766, Co. "G", Newburgh, New York.

3 OCTOBER 1943

SAKOCIUS, George C., Pfc., 33358822, Co. "G", West Pittston, Pennsylvania.

5 OCTOBER 1943

CRAWFORD, Melvin L., T/5, 19014077, Sv. Co., Shevlin, Oregon.

7 OCTOBER 1943

EDWARDS, Charles W., Jr., Capt., 0-406915, Cn. Co., Seattle, Washington.
 THORNTON, Samuel W., Pfc., 39306934, Cn. Co., Klamath Falls, Oregon.

8 OCTOBER 1943

BANKS, John R., 2nd Lt., 0-1308909, Regtl. Hqs. Co., Newark, New Jersey.
 WRAY, Bert H., 1st Lt., 0-1288341, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 YOUNG, Vernon W., 2nd Lt., 0-1302085, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Plainville, Massachusetts.

10 OCTOBER 1943

GRIEBSTEIN, Alfred, Jr., Pfc., 31132044, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Hamilton, Massachusetts.
 MARTIN, Willis G., Pfc., 33246308, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

12 OCTOBER 1943

GRIFFIN, Anthony N., Pvt., 38382382, Co. "E", Golden Meadow, Louisiana.

13 OCTOBER 1943

BELL, Carl M., Cpl., 36128333, Co. "D", Wyandotte, Michigan.

BIRD, Charles R., Pvt., 35497198, Co. "I", Willsburg, Kentucky.

BOWYER, Cloyd A., Cpl., 35153489, Co. "D", Longansport, Indiana.

BROUILLARD, Alcide J., Pvt., 31183742, Co. "D", Woonsocket, Rhode Island.

BULL, Harry E., Pvt., 33204377, Med. Det., Baltimore, Maryland.

BURNS, James G., Pfc., 17001311, Co. "H", Leavenworth, Kansas.

DETTY, Arthur C., T/5, 35271786, Co. "L", Jackson, Ohio.

FARRELL, John P., Pfc., 36034013, AT Co., Chicago, Illinois.

FOLEY, William C., Cpl., 36035539, AT Co., Chicago, Illinois.

KOZAR, George A., Pfc., 13086332, Co. "D", Wilmerding, Pennsylvania.

LATEGANO, Vincent W., Pvt., 32615581, Co. "L", New York, New York.

LEDESMA, Domingo S., Pfc., 38032125, Co. "L", San Antonio, Texas.

LEMASTER, Junior, Pvt., 35436266, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Manila, Kentucky.

MANNINO, Angelo, Pvt., 32784067, Co. "C", Bronx, New York.

McALOON, Eugene G., Pvt., 31245549, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

McDONALD, Joe V., Pvt., 34449123, Co. "I", Griffin, Georgia.

McNEELY, Jeff, 2nd Lt., 0-1300352, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Idalou, Texas.

MOODY, Ted R., 2nd Lt., 0-1303757, AT Co., Talladega, Alabama.

MURPHY, John E., Pvt., 31267632, Co. "C", Berlin, New Hampshire.

NEWALL, Alfred R., Jr., Pfc., 31109504, AT Co., Rochester, New Hampshire.

OLAETA, Laurence Pfc., 39028084, Co. "D", Lovelock, Nevada.

PARRISH, Clarence S., 1st Lt., 0-1296893, Co. "I", Montgomery, Alabama.

PEDERSON, Henry R., Pfc., 36249965, Co. "L", Seymour, Wisconsin.

REED, Russell F., Cpl., 36246722, Co. "L", Marshfield, Wisconsin.

RUGGIERO, Rafael A., Pvt., 31287215, Co. "A", Springfield, Massachusetts.

SANTEE, Eugene G., Pfc., 17006041, Co. "F", Cannon Ball, North Dakota.

SCHERER, Arthur H., Pvt., 7031302, Co. "D", Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

SCHLECKTE, Edwin J., Pvt., 36434428, Co. "E", Worden, Illinois.

SHOLLEY, Glenn L., Pfc., 35011046, Co. "L", Akron, Ohio.

SPECTOR, Bernard, Pvt., 34546438, Co. "I", Miami, Florida.

ST. GERMAIN, Francis F., Pvt., 31186543, Co. "K", Oxford, Massachusetts.

SUMNER, Guy W., Cpl., 39381131, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Yakima, Washington.

TATUM, Jack M., 2nd Lt., 0-1296934, Co. "C", Thompson, Melville L., Pvt., 35369395, Co. "I", Sheridan, Illinois.

UHRICH, Clarence A., 1st Sgt., 6861713, Co. "I", Los Angeles, California.

VOGT, Glennon J., Sgt., 19028774, Co. "D", Monett, California.

WILKINS, Johnnie W., Sgt., 6373302, Co. "L", Memphis, Tennessee.

WILLIAMS, Charlie, Pvt., 14070851, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Lexington, Mississippi.

WOODSON, Waldo, Sgt., 35034062, Co. "L", Columbus, Ohio.

YETTER, Howard I., Pfc., 33256251, Co. "G", Burnham, Pennsylvania.

ZIELINSKI, Frank H., Sgt., 6564966, Co. "D", Gary, Indiana.

14 OCTOBER 1943

FRUBACK, Anthony, Sgt., 6877927, Co. "F", New York, New York.

GEBHART, Nicholas H., Sgt., 17012677, Co. "E", Watertown, South Dakota.

JUAREZ, Frank M., Pfc., 19012451, Co. "D", Stockton, California.

MILLER, Raymond J., Pfc., 37098919, Med. Det., Devils Lake, North Dakota.

PRISTAS, Joseph, Pfc., 33370221, Co. "M", Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

VUKMIROVICK, Nick, Pvt., 36731989, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.

WILKERSON, Robert A., Pvt., 34396659, Co. "G", Ward, Alabama.

15 OCTOBER 1943

CURRY, William J., Cpl., 36506734, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.

DREIBELBIES, Robert A., S/Sgt., 6945051, Co. "B", Allentown, Pennsylvania.

FLEMING, Jerald B., Pvt., 14107933, Co. "I", Ozark, Alabama.
 HESS, Mike, Sgt., 6580510, Co. "G", Aberdeen, Washington.
 HUPNAGEL, Thomas J., Pvt., 33312992, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 JENKINS, Grady L., Pvt., 34440129, Co. "K", Tignall, Georgia.
 LAUDERDALE, Calvin M., Pvt., 35369320, Co. "K", Hammon, Indiana.
 LEVIN, Ralph L., 2nd Lt., 0-1307715, Co. "I", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 MOHLER, Glover C., Pvt., 33446300, Med. Det., Shenandoah, Virginia.
 O'DONNELL, John E., Pfc., 33319560, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 SCHULMAN, Philip, Pvt., 32809060, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.
 SIPE, Warren H., Pfc., 33243469, Co. "E", Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania.
 STONE, John T., Pvt., 34329163, Co. "K", Tullahoma, Tennessee.
 SWANSON, Elston A., Cpl., 37206315, Co. "I", Kansas City, Missouri.

16 OCTOBER 1943

ADERHOLD, Calvin D., Pfc., 34397681, Co. "K", Jacksonville, Alabama.
 ALLEN, Alonzo, Pvt., 32667639, Co. "H", South Glens Falls, New York.
 ANDERSON, Chester A., Pvt., 37206472, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bolokow, Missouri.
 CARDENAS, Raymond H., Pvt., 39265177, Co. "I", Montauca, California.
 CARDWELL, Preston, Pvt., 35489933, Co. "A", Morgantown, Kentucky.
 CARLSON, Cecil H., Cpl., 37114642, Co. "K", Coland, Nebraska.
 CURR, Charles H., Pfc., 19010473, Co. "H", Chester, Idaho.
 CURRY, Glendie M., Sgt., 352102070, Co. "K", Germania, West Virginia.
 DEMCHOCK, Theodore T., Pvt., 32586137, Co. "H", Koester, New York.
 DILLARD, Barney P., Cpl., 6299575, Co. "M", Houston, Texas.
 DURDON, Stephen, Pvt., 33382193, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
 ELDRIDGE, Walter C., Pfc., 14097531, Co. "K", Benton, Massachusetts.
 FRENCH, Charles E., Pfc., 39542760, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
 GARRETT, Ira B., Pvt., 38133606, Co. "M", McCaulley, Texas.
 GERHARDT, Elmer E. K., Pvt., 37128443, Co. "H", Lincoln, Nebraska.
 HAMLIN, Everett, Pfc., 35201970, Co. "K", Pikesville, Kentucky.
 HAMMONS, Clifford D., Sgt., 19051576, Co. "E", Trinidad, Colorado.
 HARBINS, Frank, Pfc., 32541005, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HILL, John W., Pvt., 15316148, Co. "E", Charleston, West Virginia.
 HUGHES, Marshal V., Pfc., 34397678, Co. "K", Jacksonville, Alabama.
 IZZO, Carmine J., Pvt., 32792023, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 JANDEL, Joseph F., Sgt., 17012669, Co. "E", Zell, South Dakota.
 KICKLIGHTER, Hartridge W., Pvt., 34686723, Co. "I", Glennville, Georgia.
 LAUTENSCHLAGER, Russell D., Jr., Pfc., 35588054, Co. "K", Orrville, Ohio.
 LEMPKE, Orlan P., Cpl., 37121080, Co. "H", Griswold, Iowa.
 MARVINYCZ, George, Pvt., 36280192, Co. "I", Butternut, Wisconsin.
 MARMARELO, Angelo, Cpl., 32308007, Co. "H", Jersey City, New Jersey.
 McNALLY, Thomas J., Pvt., 36709132, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
 MASON, Harry S., Pfc., 33345798, Co. "H", Danville, Pennsylvania.
 MORES, Stephen E., Pvt., 35253874, Med. Det., Whiting, Indiana.
 MURPHY, William G., Pvt., 33441983, Co. "C", Dillwyn, Virginia.
 NORLAND, Archie, Sgt., 6863050, Co. "E", Ironwood, Michigan.
 PARTICKI, John, Pfc., 19044285, Co. "L", Hawkins, Wisconsin.
 PIERCE, Wilbur R., Pvt., 34397777, Co. "D", Georgiana, Alabama.
 PORTER, John M., Pvt., 6578740, Med. Det., Stroud, Oklahoma.
 REINERTSEN, Paul A., Sgt., 39010045, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hayward, California.
 SANCHEZ, Regino B., Pfc., 38158719, Co. "M", Conception, Texas.
 SCARPINATO, Joseph, Pfc., 32375740, Co. "C", Lockport, New York.
 SCHINDEL, Fred J., Pvt., 36632422, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 SEA, Sidney C., Pfc., 35664478, Co. "E", Sinai, Kentucky.
 SELL, Gerhardt W., Pvt., 36246431, Co. "H", Greenwood, Wisconsin.
 SHANK, Earl L., Pvt., 35605772, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
 SIMMONS, Marcus A., Sgt., 6547287, Co. "C", Grande Ronde, Oregon.
 SLOAN, William J., Pvt., 39184525, Co. "K", Yakima, Washington.
 TAYLOR, Arthur R., Pfc., 35201188, Co. "H", Alderson, West Virginia.
 THOMPSON, Glenn O., Cpl., 39167440, Co. "K", San Pedro, California.

YTURRI, John, Sgt., 39085094, Co. "B", Barstow, California.

17 OCTOBER 1943

HASELWOOD, Leroy A., Capt., 0-354715, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Gardner, Kansas.
 HOLLIDAY, Charles T., Pfc., 32554805, Co. "K", Newark, New Jersey.
 LORENSON, Wilbert F., Pvt., 35345520, Co. "B", Port Clinton, Ohio.
 McPHERSON, Roland N., Pvt., 32838762, Co. "B", Guilford, New Jersey.
 ULMER, Nevin R., Pfc., 33311614, Co. "H", Malvery, Pennsylvania.

18 OCTOBER 1943

DUART, James F., Pvt., 31303302, Co. "D", South Dighton, Massachusetts.
 MERRILL, Clement F., Pfc., 32350950, Co. "L", Warwick, New York.
 WROE, Edmund, Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1301580, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Clinton, Kentucky.

19 OCTOBER 1943

CARNEAL, Ernest H., Pvt., 13075524, Co. "I", Alexandria, Virginia.

20 OCTOBER 1943

ALLFORD, Roy H., Pvt., 33348858, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Pittsine, Pennsylvania.
 RIORDAN, Eugene T., 2nd Lt., 0-1311359, Co. "L",

21 OCTOBER 1943

HOLAWAY, Jesse C., Sgt., 37349866, Co. "F", Montrose, Colorado.
 KING, Charles L., Pfc., 38117572, Co. "M", Boyd, Texas.
 LAFERTY, Floyd, Pvt., 35448543, Co. "E", Allen, Kentucky.
 RED, Alvin W., Sgt., 6956211, Co. "G", Wheeler, Texas.
 SMITH, Wallace E., Pfc., 14097563, Co. "G", Guntown, Mississippi.
 WORTHINGTON, Elbert T., Pfc., 35202019, Co. "I", Riverton, Kentucky.

22 OCTOBER 1943

ETZOLD, James J., Sgt., 17012369, Co. "F", Independence, Kansas.
 KOSCO, John P., Pfc., 35010514, Co. "M", Barber-ton, Ohio.
 WARD, Maynill E., Pvt., 37243977, Co. "A", Kansas City, Missouri.

23 OCTOBER 1943

BENTLEY, Ray, Pvt., 36183472, Co. "A", Beulah, Michigan.
 BUWEN, Frank D., Pvt., 32528453, Co. "M", Freeport, New York.
 FORTIN, Delmar R., Pfc., 37285398, Co. "M", Edgeley, North Dakota.
 HILL, Baxter L., Pvt., 35723457, Co. "I", Providence, Kentucky.
 JOHNSON, Harry J., Cpl., 37043990, Co. "L", Sea City, Iowa.
 RUSSELL, Alexander H., 1st Lt., 0-279673, Co. "L", Jacksonville, Illinois.
 THOMPSON, Weldon G., Pfc., 37453287, Co. "D", Superior, Wyoming.

24 OCTOBER 1943

HUBER, Lothar F., Pvt., 32789737, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 NEVILLE, Ben W., 2nd Lt., 0-1310623, Co. "K", Dallas, Texas.
 WARRINGTON, Stanley R., Pfc., 36569478, Co. "C", Saginaw, Michigan.
 WERZBICKI, Walter F., Pfc., 36128419, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.

26 OCTOBER 1943

CANCELA, Justo, Pvt., 32863643, Co. "K", Bronx, New York.
 McGrath, Joseph E., Pvt., 31308606, Co. "K", Brockton, Massachusetts.
 SENATORE, Frank, Pvt., 12087714, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
 ZALKA, Louis J., Pfc., 36128413, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.

27 OCTOBER 1943

HEAD, Earl, Jr., Sgt., 35010754, Co. "F", Cleveland, Ohio.
 MAZZA, Vincent A., Pvt., 35518845, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

28 OCTOBER 1943

BROPHY, Arthur C., Jr., Pvt., 31295934, Co. "B", Malden, Massachusetts.
 CHINE, Joseph, Pvt., 35394530, Co. "B", Orrville, Ohio.
 MILLER, Walter M., Pvt., 31186469, Co. "I", Webster, Massachusetts.
 WINTER, Virgil W., Cpl., 19048477, Co. "B", Bakersfield, California.

29 OCTOBER 1943

KNUCKLES, James L., Sgt., 35153417, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Alexander, Indiana.

1 NOVEMBER 1943

ALLEN, Elvin C., Pvt., 38342815, Co. "L", Ropesville, Texas.
 BAYNUM, Leroy W., Pvt., 35668562, Co. "L", California, Kentucky.

POLENSKY, Frank, Pvt., 37284003, Co. "C", Bel-field, North Dakota.
 ROSSOMONDO, Angelo, Pvt., 33467125, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 WATERS, Robert A., Sgt., 6574811, Co. "C", North Bend, Oregon.

2 NOVEMBER 1943

BOWEN, Thomas D., Jr., Pvt., 32869728, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
 ROTH, Randal C., Pvt., 35052885, Co. "I", Warren, Ohio.

3 NOVEMBER 1943

BROWN, Alexander A., Pvt., 36586836, Co. "L", Detroit, Michigan.
 BUCK, Clovis C., Pvt., 33535753, Co. "E", Roanoke, Virginia.
 CHARZYNSKI, Ray F., Pvt., 35517059, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
 LAHNA, Leo E., Pvt., 35416659, Co. "L", Coshocton, Ohio.
 NICHOLSON, George E., Pfc., 15104840, Co. "E", Indianapolis, Indiana.
 STUARD, Warren G., Pfc., 35664616, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Georgetown, Kentucky.
 URBAN, William C., Pvt., 32485206, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kenton, Delaware.
 WALKER, Raymond T., Pvt., 36569752, Co. "K", Detroit, Michigan.
 WUBBINS, Vernon L., Pvt., 6567052, Med. Det., Yakima, Washington.
 ZALEWSKI, Constantine J., Pvt., 32842295, Co. "E", North Tonawanda, New York.

4 NOVEMBER 1943

ARCHABAL, John R., Pvt., 39327582, Co. "K", Ely, Nevada.
 BLACKENBURG, William J., Jr., Pfc., 33342457, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 FRANK, Delmar A., Pvt., 36812013, Co. "K", Burnett, Wisconsin.
 GLEAVES, James G., Pvt., 34525816, Co. "L", Nashville, Tennessee.
 PIE, Justin A., 2nd Lt., 0-440899, Co. "L", Smithville, New Jersey.
 REGISTER, William J., Pvt., 34764932, Co. "L", Atlanta, Georgia.
 ROBERTELLI, Pasquale A., Pvt., 32614765, Med. Det., New York, New York.
 SILOVICH, Joseph M., Pvt., 35045690, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.
 TAORMINA, Vincent J., Pvt., 32784046, Co. "K", New York, New York.
 URSO, Charles J., Pfc., 32341317, Co. "L", New York, New York.
 WILLIAMS, James B., Pvt., 34491310, Co. "E", Limestone, Tennessee.

5 NOVEMBER 1943

ALBERT, Thomas A., Pvt., 32860943, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lindenhurst, New York.
 AMATUCCI, Severino, Pvt., 32869339, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 BENNETT, Jerome W., Pvt., 33551141, Co. "C", Seaford, Delaware.
 CORSEN, Joseph G., Pvt., 33590489, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 FAIRCHILD, James W., Cpl., 35118697, Co. "C", North Bend, Ohio.
 MORGAN, Coy L., Capt., 0-1287743, Co. "E", Prescott, Arizona.
 OSBORN, Delbert, Pfc., 16151339, Co. "C", Caro, Michigan.
 OUTLAW, Stewart C., Pvt., 34368030, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Charlotte, North Carolina.
 PALLADINETTI, Pasquale L., Pvt., 33592160, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 PHILLIPS, William, Pvt., 32539503, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bronx, New York.
 RHODES, Roy, Pfc., 37396870, Co. "G", Fredericktown, Maine.
 ROBBLEE, Peter L., Pvt., 31035700, Co. "E", Dorchester, Massachusetts.

6 NOVEMBER 1943

ACKLEY, Kenneth R., Pvt., 36569596, Co. "E", Hemlock, Michigan.
 ARCHER, Davis M., Cpl., 34105855, Co. "H", Dayton, Alabama.
 BIAGA, Stanley J., Cpl., 32066549, Co. "G", Union Beach, New Jersey.
 BULLER, Vernon H., Sgt., 19046022, Co. "G", Halstead, Kansas.
 CARLIN, John A., Pvt., 33370367, Co. "G", Coal-dale, Pennsylvania.
 DI PIETRA, Mariano J., Pvt., 39285935, Co. "E", Los Angeles, California.
 IRVIN, Roy D., Pvt., 36738312, Co. "E", Dale, Illinois.
 MANZO, Canuto M., Pvt., 39554642, Co. "G", Man-rovina, California.
 MAZZARIELLO, Paul E., Pvt., 32756434, Co. "H", Camden, New Jersey.
 MERRITT, Edwin L., Pvt., 34571364, Co. "E", Moultrie, Georgia.
 PIERSON, J. C., Pvt., 38228401, Co. "G", O'Brien, Texas.
 REDDING, Clarence D., Pvt., 32735229, Co. "G", Rochester, New York.
 SHAY, Everett A., Pfc., 12172142, Co. "E", Water-siet, New York.
 STEINBERG, Albert J., Pvt., 32861715, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
 STROUPE, Edwin J., Cpl., 35003790, Co. "E", Worth-ington, Ohio.

TINNELL, Clarence, Pvt., 34285805, Co. "G", Knoxville, Tennessee.
WALSH, Carl N., Pvt., 32778908, Co. "G", Franklin, New Jersey.
WATSON, Donald P., Pvt., 36453944, Co. "G", Kalamazoo, Michigan.

7 NOVEMBER 1943

McDOLE, Riley J., Jr., Pvt., 32769265, Co. "K", Newton, New Jersey.
VARGA, Steve J., Sgt., 35010695, Co. "F", Massillon, Ohio.
WILLIAMS, Harry L., Pvt., 34397655, Co. "G", Jacksonville, Alabama.

8 NOVEMBER 1943

BRENNAN, William L., Pvt., 32678078, Co. "A", Syracuse, New York.
FETTO, August F., Pvt., 16010549, Regt'l. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
HOBBS, Francis C., Pvt., 36480227, Co. "F", East St. Louis, Illinois.
JOHNSON, Robert T., Sgt., 17010716, Co. "K", Paragould, Arkansas.
KNUDSON, Herbert S., Pvt., 32869107, Co. "F", Brooklyn, New York.
MEEKS, Martin L., Pvt., 34722619, Co. "F", Coal-mont, Tennessee.

9 NOVEMBER 1943

ANDERSON, Robert L., Pfc., 6948008, Co. "H", North East, Pennsylvania.
DOBIECKI, Matthew T., Pfc., 36304166, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
DUDLEY, Noble P., Pvt., 36731677, Co. "F", La Porte, Indiana.
MARTINEZ, Basil J., Pvt., 19049586, Co. "F", Nopomo, California.
MAYER, Stanley E., Pfc., 39014944, Co. "F", North Fork, California.
VAUGHN, Alfred D., Pvt., 34645700, Co. "E", Paco-let, South Carolina.

11 NOVEMBER 1943

CALE, James E., Cpl., 17015545, Co. "F", Newport, Arkansas.
DOLAK, John M., Pvt., 32771085, Co. "E", Alpha, New Jersey.
ELKINS, Eddie, Cpl., 6970146, Co. "D", Alabama City, Alabama.
ELMES, John D., Sgt., 35118760, Co. "H", West Eckton, Ohio.
GAINES, Delbert, Pvt., 35466897, Co. "F", Forbeeth, Kentucky.
GREGORY, Lewis S., 2nd Lt., 0-2055477, Co. "B", Union, South Carolina.
HAZELWOOD, Leonard A., Pfc., 33126657, Co. "E", Stuart, Virginia.
NETT, Ralph H., Pvt., 37207632, Co. "H", Mount Hope, Kansas.
NEWBURY, Russell W., 1st Lt., 0-1284192, Co. "H", Pasadena, California.
QUEENSBERRY, Henry C., Pvt., 33528065, Co. "E", Sylva, Virginia.
ROMAN, Michael, Pvt., 33573885, Co. "D", Cleveland, Ohio.
WARD, Melvin L., Pvt., 34438632, Co. "G", Alfreds, North Carolina.

13 NOVEMBER 1943

KONDART, Teddy S., Pfc., 35010914, Co. "G", Campbell, Ohio.
McCRAE, Edwin, Pfc., 39304644, Co. "H", Yachats, Oregon.

14 NOVEMBER 1943

NEAL, Donald, Cpl., 37349759, Co. "M", Dolares, Colorado.

16 NOVEMBER 1943

ANDERSON, Thomas J., Pvt., 36640518, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
ARAMBULA, John M., Pvt., 38402165, Co. "L", Enid, Oklahoma.
GEBING, Howard V., 2nd Lt., 0-1285741, Co. "I", Brewster, New York.
HARRIS, Lonnie M., Pfc., 34438654, Co. "C", Mount Airy, North Carolina.
JOSEPH, Lee, S/Sgt., 35011042, Co. "M", Akron, Ohio.
MITCHELL, John C., Sgt., 18108476, Co. "I", Tulsa, Oklahoma.
TOMES, Gilbert D., Pvt., 34396430, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Guntersville, Alabama.

25 DECEMBER 1943

FISHER, Robert L., Pfc., 33256173, Co. "C", Amaranth, Pennsylvania.

Anzio-Rome Campaign

22 JANUARY 1944

ADAM, Armand, Pvt., 31307426, Co. "C", Lawrence, Massachusetts.
BENSON, Calvin S., Pfc., 31321115, Co. "K", Portland, Maryland.
BROWNBACK, James R., S/Sgt., 19018596, Co. "K", Butte, Montana.
COOLEY, Fred W., Pvt., 36820891, Co. "B", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
GERHART, John M., Jr., Pvt., 35655877, Co. "C", Richmond, Virginia.
LINDSEY, Max D., Pvt., 37245270, Co. "K", Halfway, Missouri.

NELSEN, Leroy N., Pfc., 37289813, Co. "C", Albert Lea, Minnesota.
ROONEY, Walter F., Pfc., 31306625, Co. "B", Brighton, Massachusetts.
STEFANINI, Peter P., Pfc., 31309764, Co. "C", Framingham, Massachusetts.
YUSKO, Andrew J., Pvt., 31329409, Co. "B", Bridgeport, Connecticut.

23 JANUARY 1944

SCHRYVER, Albert K., Pfc., 32863981, Co. "C", College Place, New York.

26 JANUARY 1944

MAURAN, Howard J., Pfc., 32852693, Co. "M", West Point, New York.

27 JANUARY 1944

ANDERSON, Gordon A., Sgt., 38140123, Co. "M", Washom, Texas.

28 JANUARY 1944

REECE, Charles E., Pvt., 34729123, Co. "L", Walling, Tennessee.

30 JANUARY 1944

BARONE, Joseph J., Pvt., 36586461, Co. "C", Detroit, Michigan.
BERUMEN, Tony F., S/Sgt., 37463476, Co. "F", Gibbon, Nebraska.
CAMPBELL, Edward G., Pfc., 36127953, Co. "C", Glen, Michigan.
CHINCHILLA, John J., Pvt., 33679455, Co. "F", Ambridge, Pennsylvania.
COWLING, James W., T/Sgt., 6955286, Co. "C", Anna, Texas.
DAVIDSON, Russell G., Pvt., 35554375, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Amherst, Ohio.
DUDDLESTON, William J., Pvt., 36313920, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
EHRHART, Charles E., Pvt., 31259202, Co. "F", Wickford, Rhode Island.
FALCO, Anthony J., Pvt., 31335918, Co. "C", Bridgeport, Connecticut.
FARRIS, Henry T., Jr., Pvt., 14150710, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Augusta, Georgia.
FRANKWICH, Joseph M., T/5, 32647659, Med. Det., Brooklyn, New York.
GRAMA, John G., Pvt., 36753525, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
GUNSALLUS, Russell C., Pvt., 33759674, Co. "C", Tyrone, Pennsylvania.
HAINES, John E., Pvt., 33507668, Co. "C", Coatesville, Pennsylvania.
HALL, Francis G., Pfc., 33564218, Co. "F", Tunnelton, West Virginia.
HEATER, Wallace W., T/Sgt., 6575237, Co. "C", Sherwood, Oregon.
HOFFMAN, Albert G., Pvt., 32857295, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Uva, New York.
HUGHES, Herbert H., Pvt., 33634203, Co. "H", Nelly Ford, Virginia.
KRAUSE, Frederick L., Pvt., 36822824, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Janville, Wisconsin.
LYNCH, Steve M., Pvt., 35055891, Co. "L", Lake-wood, Ohio.
MAYBERRY, Kenney C., Sgt., 17086910, Co. "H", Denver, Colorado.
MELGARD, William J., 2nd Lt., 0-1309089, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
MOLNAR, Frank, Pfc., 33623174, Co. "F", Allen-town, Pennsylvania.
NICOLETTI, Paul, Pvt., 32871192, Co. "C", New York, New York.
O'HANLON, Arthur F., Pfc., 33595393, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
ORTIZ, Vero, S/Sgt., 6954168, Co. "F", Gardner, New Mexico.
POINTS, Otto L., Pfc., 37004302, Co. "C", Crane, Missouri.
POST, Harlan, Pvt., 37443142, Co. "C", Albia, Iowa.
RANCOURT, Augustin C., Pfc., 31321982, Co. "C", Lewiston, Maine.
SAMPLES, James V., Sgt., 35690274, Co. "C", Hatton, Kentucky.
SCARFO, Vincent, Pvt., 32613828, Co. "C", Brook-lyn, New York.
SPENCE, John T., Pfc., 35638615, Co. "F", Soldier, Kentucky.
TOSKOS, Sotiris, Pvt., 32701683, Med. Det., New York, New York.
VIOLA, James V., Pfc., 31327645, Co. "C", West Hartford, Connecticut.
WALSH, Charles R., Pfc., 33563227, Co. "C", Creap-town, Maryland.
WARD, Christopher C., Pfc., 34666533, Co. "F", Whiteville, North Carolina.
WASHINESKI, John L., Pvt., 33603569, Co. "F", Bellaire, Long Island, New York.
WEAKLEY, Alvin W., 2nd Lt., 0-1318239, Co. "F", Hershey, Nebraska.
WEAVER, Robert L., Pvt., 33760983, Co. "L", Lewis-ton, Pennsylvania.
WEBB, William F., Pfc., 38444291, Co. "F", Farm-ersville, Texas.
ZABARSKY, Herbert, Pfc., 32877381, Med. Det., Bronx, New York.
ZUPO, William L., Pfc., 39410888, Co. "L", Vallejo, California.

31 JANUARY 1944

ABNEY, Alvie, Pfc., 35728916, Co. "D", Calhoun, Kentucky.
ADKINS, James K., Pfc., 35631753, Med. Det., Spring-field, Iowa.
ANDERSON, Claude E., Pvt., 34760966, Co. "E", Dahlonega, Georgia.
BAKER, Raymond R., Pvt., 38154123, Co. "A", Gary, Oklahoma.

BANSEMER, Theodore C., T/Sgt., 39160048, Co. "A", Holstead, Kansas.
BARBARA, Stephen T., T/5, 32820458, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.
BENDIGO, Elmer J., 1st Lt., 0-402871, Co. "A", Leakville, North Carolina.
BLACK, Paul D., Pvt., 35217778, Co. "D", Byesville, Ohio.
BOISJOLI, Rolland O., Pfc., 31338942, Co. "L", Winookit, Vermont.
BROWN, Curtis V., Pvt., 35704527, Co. "E", Wind-sor, Kentucky.
BUMBARGER, William J., Pvt., 33576198, Co. "A", Clearfield, Pennsylvania.
BUSBY, Edward V., 1st Lt., 0-1294429, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Washington, District of Columbia.
CALLAGY, Ambrose J., Pfc., 32658277, Co. "F", New York, New York.
CHAPMAN, Lionel E., Pvt., 38539332, Co. "F", Houston, Texas.
COHEN, Samuel R., Pvt., 36745278, Co. "E", Chicago, Illinois.
CONTRAS, William R., Sgt., 39161143, Co. "A", Costamasa, California.
DANKO, Steve P., Pfc., 32776806, Co. "D", Wood-ridge, New Jersey.
DAVIDSON, George H., Pvt., 31341577, Co. "D", Oakville, Connecticut.
DOBEK, Frank P., Pvt., 33277086, Co. "K", Merri-ta-town, Pennsylvania.
DRURY, Charles M., Pfc., 14171833, Co. "K", Greens-boro, Alabama.
DZIAK, Walter, S/Sgt., 36049065, Co. "D", Villa Park, Illinois.
EGY, Orville D., S/Sgt., 37014159, Co. "B", Hes-ton, Kansas.
FARINA, Eugene J., Pvt., 32308450, Co. "A", Elm-hurst, New York.
FIX, John W., Pvt., 35139238, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Indianapolis, Indiana.
FREEAN, Bernard M., Pvt., 36661309, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
GILMAN, Herbert R., 2nd Lt., 0-510222, Co. "M", Burley, Idaho.
GORDON, Clifford G., 1st Lt., 0-1298533, Co. "K", Worcester, Massachusetts.
HUGHES, Harlin P., Sgt., 34800127, Co. "A", Clay-ton, Alabama.
MACKINEN, Reino R., Pvt., 37557545, Co. "E", Wisconsin.
MATRISS, Frederick J., Pvt., 32910578, Co. "K", East Rutherford, New Jersey.
MAYO, John A., 1st Sgt., 6955354, Co. "B", Whites-burg, Texas.
NEUWIRTH, Julius, Pvt., 32653829, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
OLSON, Truman O., Sgt., 36246624, Co. "B", Cam-bridge, Wisconsin.
PLANTIER, Eugene G., Pfc., 31268672, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hudson Hills, New Hampshire.
REINIG, Walter H., Sgt., 37035972, Co. "E", Omaha, Nebraska.
REYNOLDS, Earle G., Sgt., 695266, Co. "B", Antlers, Oklahoma.
REYNOLDS, John E., Pfc., 32769256, Co. "D", Summit, New Jersey.
ROBERTS, Gordon W., Pfc., 36656255, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
SANTONACITA, Lewis, Pvt., 32910722, Co. "L", Carlton Hill, New Jersey.
SPIDLE, Jack D., Pfc., 34707509, Co. "E", Leeds, Alabama.
STIERMAN, John E., Pvt., 37602076, Co. "D", St. Louis, Missouri.
STOESSEL, Carl A., Cpl., 39605647, Co. "D", Rapelje, Montana.
TESTER, Charles L., Pvt., 33536217, Med. Det., Grundy, Virginia.
USCHMANN, Raymond E., Pfc., 36649572, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.
VALENTIN, Emilio, De J., Pfc., 32897542, Co. "K", New York, New York.
VALENTINO, Nicholas F., S/Sgt., 32358203, Co. "M", Graniteville, New York.
VAN ECK, William R., Pfc., 32776777, Co. "E", Kearney, New Jersey.
WAGONER, John V., Pfc., 35668496, Co. "F", Cali-fornia, Kentucky.
WALLIN, John H., Pfc., 19012028, Co. "D", Oakland, California.
WEBB, Richard F., Pvt., 15089205, Med. Det., Charle-son, West Virginia.
WEILACHER, Emden L., Pvt., 33434486, Co. "K", Hallton, Pennsylvania.
WILLIAMS, Raymond H., Pvt., 35655852, Co. "E", Rowe, West Virginia.
WONG, Sing, Pfc., 39164091, Co. "D", Los Angeles, California.

1 FEBRUARY 1944

CHERNITZKY, Seymour, Pfc., 12113935, Co. "F", Mount Vernon, Westchester, New York.
CREWS, Hilman V., S/Sgt., 36049470, Co. "D", Golden Gate, Illinois.
D'ANGELO, Melvin Pfc., 33477042, Co. "F", Phila-delphia, Pennsylvania.
DOMINGO, Joseph A., Jr., S/Sgt., 39015007, Co. "G", Oakley, California.
FRANKS, Albert W., 1st Sgt., 17001124, Co. "D", Knox, North Dakota.
GOODWIN, Lawrence E., Pfc., 31330166, Co. "D", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
HARDWICK, Willis J., Pfc., 36481960, Co. "G", White Hall, Illinois.
HUDOCK, Peter, Pfc., 33623956, Co. "K", Shenan-doah, Pennsylvania.
OLSEN, Norbert L., S/Sgt., 17006006, Co. "G", Gar-ri-son, North Dakota.

RAKE, Edward J., Pvt., 36614843, Med. Det., Chicago, Illinois.
 RAMIREZ, Jesse M., Sgt., 39264624, Co. "F", Azusa, California.
 ROMERO, Fred I., Pfc., 37349807, Co. "H", Monte Vista, California.
 SAVAGE, Raymond E., Pvt., 31319227, Co. "G", Auburn, Missouri.
 SZUKALSKI, Teddy J., Pfc., 32842416, Co. "D", Lackawanna, New York.
 URBANOWSKI, Stanislaus J., Pvt., 32881206, Co. "F", Bronx, New York.
 YUTZY, Kenneth J., Sgt., 35010469, Co. "D", Canton, Ohio.

2 FEBRUARY 1944

BEATRICE, John J., Pvt., 31359905, Co. "A", East Boston, Massachusetts.
 REAUDET, Marcel R., Pvt., 31268633, Co. "B", Manchester, New Hampshire.
 BORZEWSKI, Edward M., Pvt., 32751084, Co. "B", Trenton, New Jersey.
 BOULANGER, Adrien A., Pvt., 31268655, Co. "B", Quincy, Massachusetts.
 BUGAILA, Edward J., Pvt., 36664992, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
 CABALA, Francis, Pfc., 36585430, Co. "F", Midland, Michigan.
 CARSTENS, George H., 1st Lt., 0-1295828, Co. "F", Mobile, Alabama.
 CEBEREK, Stanley A., Pvt., 31342589, Co. "B", Torrington, Connecticut.
 CHEEK, Paul H., Pfc., 33532332, Co. "B", Jonesville, Virginia.
 COLLINS, Wallace D., Pvt., 34649992, Co. "E", Columbia, South Carolina.
 CURRAN, Louis F., Jr., Pvt., 31356974, Co. "B", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
 DAVIS, Jean, T/Sgt., 6574589, Co. "E", Broken Bow, Nebraska.
 DAVIS, Richard H., Pvt., 36649848, Co. "B", Savanna, Illinois.
 DE LONGE, John H., Pfc., 17017529, Co. "G", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
 DITSWORTH, La Verne E., Pfc., 36749079, Co. "B", Freeport, Illinois.
 EAZOR, John, Pvt., 33674864, Co. "A", Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.
 FIELDS, Sherwood N., Pvt., 34775921, Co. "F", Belmont, North Carolina.
 FISHER, Lloyd M., Pfc., 35173565, Co. "B", Massillon, Ohio.
 FORNI, Louis C., Pfc., 32648416, Med. Det., Ozone Park, New York.
 GABRYNOWICZ, Richard C., Pvt., 31328870, Co. "A", New Britain, Connecticut.
 GARVEY, Kenneth J., Pvt., 32867836, Co. "H", New York, New York.
 GILMORE, John C., Pvt., 36478128, Co. "A", Granite City, Illinois.
 GIMDSEY, Clarence, Pfc., 35668454, Co. "E", Stearns, Kentucky.
 GRABAREK, Frank J., Sgt., 35345376, Co. "E", South Bend, Indiana.
 HAMILTON, Paul V., Pvt., 33623270, Co. "D", South Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.
 HARLOW, Arthur F., Pvt., 31308450, Co. "H", Cambridge, Massachusetts.
 HARRELL, Paul F., Pfc., 34663716, Co. "A", Clinton, North Carolina.
 HOLZER, Charles A., Sgt., 38063778, Co. "A", Stillwater, Oklahoma.
 JAMISON, Charles L., Pvt., 33510918, Co. "F", Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
 JENNINGS, Calvin C., Pvt., 34607213, Co. "E", Charlotte, North Carolina.
 LINVILLE, Paul P., Sgt., 36736119, Co. "K", Conchas Dam, New Mexico.
 McKEEL, Walter D., Pfc., 33524875, Co. "B", Norfolk, Virginia.
 McVAY, George V., Pvt., 13153031, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 MIAZGA, Joseph, S/Sgt., 35153491, Co. "F", Cory, Indiana.
 MILLER, John L., Pvt., 32657716, Co. "K", Lindenhurst, New York.
 MORIN, Clifford J., Pvt., 32898019, Med. Det., Elmhurst, Long Island, New York.
 NICHOLS, Edgar A., Pvt., 32830389, Co. "E", Salamanca, New York.
 POWERS, Milford F., Pfc., 16151536, Co. "B", Webberville, Michigan.
 RISALVATO, Joseph C., Pvt., 32357307, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
 SCHWAB, William, T/Sgt., 6499687, Co. "A", Santa Rosa, California.
 SHORT, Glenn E., S/Sgt., 6253232, Co. "C", Keystone, Nebraska.
 SNYDER, Carl J., Pvt., 33616832, Co. "A", Pen Argyl, Pennsylvania.
 TATE, Raymond E., Pvt., 34710120, Co. "A", Nashville, Tennessee.
 TAYLOR, Charles E., Pvt., 34821692, Co. "A", Bainbridge, Georgia.
 TEICHER, Max, Pvt., 32883146, Med. Det., Bronx, New York.
 THOMAS, Philip L., Pvt., 31287679, Co. "B", Palmer, Massachusetts.
 VEILLEUX, Fernand L., Pvt., 31267977, Co. "F", Manchester, New Hampshire.
 VOGT, Lawrence A., Pfc., 37368468, Co. "B", Sweet Springs, Missouri.
 WILSON, Robert T., Jr., S/Sgt., 35010447, Co. "B", Charleston, West Virginia.
 WOOD, William D., Pvt., 34708983, Co. "E", Athens, Alabama.
 YINGLING, David M., Pfc., 33574708, Co. "B", Altoona, Pennsylvania.

ZDIMAL, Albert W., Pvt., 32738337, Co. "A", Birmingham, New York.
 ZINDA, Jake E., Pfc., 35584402, Co. "A", Hammond, Indiana.
 ZUBAL, Leroy J., Pvt., 36482642, Co. "F", Mount Olive, Illinois.

3 FEBRUARY 1944

GENATEMPO, Patrick J., Pfc., 32880702, Co. "F", New York, New York.
 HACK, Charles C., Pfc., 19012178, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Fort Bragg, California.
 HARVILL, Edward E., Sgt., 17010594, Co. "G", Watson, Arkansas.
 HJUETLAND, Orlando L., Sgt., 37158550, Co. "A", Willia, Kentucky.
 KOVAC, Paul J., Pfc., 33777060, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 LINDSTROM, Floyd K., Pfc., 37349634, Co. "H", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
 MATTHEW, Wilfred L., Pfc., 31257247, Co. "H", Lowell, Massachusetts.
 RYNKA, Gerard E., Pvt., 36811589, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

4 FEBRUARY 1944

CARR, James, Pvt., 32795485, Co. "M", New York, New York.
 MILTON, Clyde O., T/Sgt., 39601540, Cn. Co., Townsend, Montana.
 VALKOVICH, Joseph C., Jr., Pvt., 32795382, Co. "F", New York, New York.

5 FEBRUARY 1944

BAKER, Robert D., Pvt., 35093743, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Richmond, Indiana.
 HARNICAR, Joseph R., Pvt., 31341661, Co. "E", Torrington, Connecticut.
 HOY, Patrick E., T/Sgt., 37092221, Co. "L", Denver, Colorado.
 NEARY, Jerome A., Pfc., 36817833, Co. "M", Antigo, Wisconsin.

6 FEBRUARY 1944

BROWN, Carson E., Pvt., 33444402, Med. Det., Petersburg, Virginia.
 YANUZZI, Nicholas, Pvt., 32897162, Co. "K", New York, New York.

7 FEBRUARY 1944

BASTIAN, Daniel R., Pvt., 33501263, Co. "A", Williamsport, Pennsylvania.
 BORNWASSER, Charles P., Pfc., 35701077, Co. "B", Louisville, Kentucky.
 DRURY, Vernon A., Pfc., 36811595, Co. "K", Eau Claire, Wisconsin.
 ONEY, Teddy R., Pvt., 35869099, Co. "I", Ashland, Kentucky.

8 FEBRUARY 1944

ALVERSON, Clyde H., Jr., Pvt., 36734325, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 DUTCHAK, Joseph E., Pvt., 31329575, Co. "M", Bridgeport, Connecticut.
 JUDE, Charlie, S/Sgt., 35201969, Co. "K", Pilgrim, Kentucky.
 PARTH, Donald R., Pvt., 36569510, Co. "F", Centerline, Michigan.
 TOMAKA, Henry J., Pvt., 32834467, Co. "A", Lackawanna, New York.

10 FEBRUARY 1944

HIGDON, James R., Pfc., 33721144, Co. "G".

11 FEBRUARY 1944

GIOTTA, Anthony G., Pvt., 35054148, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

13 FEBRUARY 1944

AVILLA, Salvador S., Pfc., 37127958, Co. "A", Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

14 FEBRUARY 1944

BARKER, Perry W., Pvt., 33218001, Co. "A", Damascus, Virginia.
 BAST, Alvin E., Pvt., 36454854, Co. "A", St. Johns, Michigan.

16 FEBRUARY 1944

BUSHBY, William E., 2nd Lt., 0-1312877, Co. "E", Yuba City, California.
 COOPER, Lloyd S., Pvt., 31384479, Co. "C", Warwick Neck, Rhode Island.
 CRAPO, Andrew, Pfc., 31120742, Co. "C", Fall River, Massachusetts.
 CURL, Ralph W., Jr., T/4, 36149960, Co. "C", Black River, Michigan.
 DEC, Walter A., Sgt., 36587134, Co. "E", Detroit, Michigan.
 EVERETT, George F., Pvt., 36479442, Co. "C", Altan, Illinois.
 FORBES, Henry G., Pvt., 32824076, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 GIBBS, Harold L., Pvt., 34609049, Co. "C", Leicester, North Carolina.
 GREGGERSON, Robert G., Pvt., 31384518, Co. "E", Lymanville, Rhode Island.
 HATHAWAY, Ernest V., Pfc., 31025360, Co. "C", Pepperell, Massachusetts.
 HEBERT, Clifford O., Pvt., 31287984, Co. "E", Southbridge, Massachusetts.
 HOLCOMB, Sanford G., Pvt., 34822907, Co. "C", Clayton, Georgia.
 HUGGINS, Norman S., Pvt., 33652621, Co. "E", Danville, Virginia.

KARSCHNIA, Walter G., Pvt., 37170342, Co. "E", Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 LANGFELD, Leonard R., Pvt., 32923324, Co. "E", South River, New Jersey.
 LAVALLEE, Albert C., Pvt., 31007141, Co. "E", Chicopee Falls, Massachusetts.
 LAWHON, Jesse E., Pvt., 34735743, Co. "C", London, Tennessee.
 LAZAR, Morris, Pvt., 32780244, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 LIENERTH, Julius A., Pvt., 36569711, Co. "E", Frankenthum, Michigan.
 LIVOLSI, Toey, Pvt., 32925454, Co. "C", Montclair, New Jersey.
 MILLER, Edward J., Sgt., 39200698, Co. "E", Drywood, Washington.
 MISHKIN, Harry, Pvt., 32332016, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 PUGH, Eugene, Pvt., 35656606, Co. "E", Nigh, Kentucky.
 SKIVER, Delille, Pfc., 36463371, Co. "E", Traverse City, Michigan.
 SMITH, Arnold, Pvt., 35202002, Co. "C", Turtle Creek, West Virginia.
 SMITH, Paul E., Pfc., 36746837, Co. "E", Gary, Indiana.
 TAYLOR, Leroy V., Pvt., 36740051, Co. "E".
 THOMAS, Lester D., Pvt., 35751822, Co. "H", Sandyville, West Virginia.

17 FEBRUARY 1944

BECKER, Richard A., Pvt., 37343597, Co. "E", Denver, Colorado.
 HIMEL, Ramon E., Cpl., 34279065, Co. "F", Glen Allen, Mississippi.
 KANDEL, Sam, Pvt., 12087987, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
 LEES, John M., S/Sgt., 32112967, Co. "F", Ozone Park, New York.
 SHUEY, Thomas G., Pvt., 13093905, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

18 FEBRUARY 1944

GRADY, Joseph M., Sgt., 32384712, Co. "F", Woodbridge, New Jersey.
 HUCK, Lawrence G., Pvt., 36819158, Co. "E", Roeline, Wisconsin.
 LOCKLEAR, Winfred, Pvt., 34674861, Co. "C", Lumberton, North Carolina.

19 FEBRUARY 1944

BOREL, Paul G., Pfc., 32823908, Co. "G", New York, New York.
 CYR, Normand M., Pvt., 31200784, Co. "F", St. Johnsbury, Vermont.
 DAUM, Balthazar L., Pvt., 32868190, Co. "H", Queens Village, New York.
 JARVIS, Walter J., Pvt., 38404016, Co. "F", Elmer, Oklahoma.
 LEONE, Cesidio, Pfc., 31031669, Co. "E", Quincy, Massachusetts.
 MONTALVO, Martin, Pvt., 32724874, Co. "F", New York, New York.
 MURPHY, John G., 2nd Lt., 0-352577, Co. "G", Burlington, Vermont.
 NEIDERMEYER, Richard J., Pfc., 33149106, Co. "F", Lititz, Pennsylvania.
 VITALE, Prisco A., Pvt., 33685575, Co. "E", New Castle, Pennsylvania.

20 FEBRUARY 1944

BIADASZ, Alfred L., Pvt., 36579872, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.
 BRIGGS, Howard R., Pvt., 35658110, Co. "E", Lemark, West Virginia.
 GREEN, Wesley L., Pfc., 37610214, Co. "H", Willow Springs, Missouri.
 JONES, Jasper H., Pvt., 18154127, AT Co., Corpus Christi, Texas.
 KARBOSKY, Stanley T., T/4, 32163350, Co. "F", New York, New York.
 MORALES, Joe, S/Sgt., 19045326, Co. "M", Las Vegas, Nevada.

21 FEBRUARY 1944

CONLON, Donald D., Jr., Pfc., 33440999, Co. "E", Connellsville, Pennsylvania.
 McGLUCKIE, Earl C., Pvt., 34774439, Co. "E", Webster, North Carolina.
 MILLER, Kenneth E., Pvt., 36661200, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
 PERDEAU, Vincent J., Pvt., 20110546, Co. "F", Worcester, Massachusetts.

22 FEBRUARY 1944

McSHANE, Francis, Pfc., 20110577, Co. "F", Northboro, Massachusetts.
 MOORHEAD, Richard A., Pvt., 36743602, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Sterling, Illinois.

23 FEBRUARY 1944

WHITE, Roger K., 2nd Lt., 0-1309457, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 WHETTON, Frank J., Pvt., 34705498, Co. "A", Adamsville, Alabama.

24 FEBRUARY 1944

EARLE, Hobart, Cpl., 32771156, Co. "I", Verona, New Jersey.
 HORN, Charles F., Pvt., 34731093, Co. "L", Cookeville, Tennessee.

25 FEBRUARY 1944

STRATTON, Jesse, S/Sgt., 15046368, Co. "E", Neafus, Kentucky.
 WARREN, Cleveland A., 2nd Lt., 0-1295304, Co. "A", Tullahoma, Tennessee.

26 FEBRUARY 1944

ASIMUS, Earl E., Pfc., 35800536, Co. "L", Cheviot, Ohio.

29 FEBRUARY 1944

ARNETT, Archie W., Sgt., 35201927, Co. "C", Piney, West Virginia.
BALKOVEC, Nicholas L., Pfc., 33403850, Co. "G", Bradock, Pennsylvania.
BROOKS, Harold R., Jr., Pvt., 36586282, Co. "F", Detroit, Michigan.
CHANDLER, Walter R., S/Sgt., 20604442, Co. "L", Danville, Illinois.
COOPER, James E., Pfc., 34578914, Co. "G", Smithville, Georgia.
DILLMAN, Roger M., Pvt., 36478482, Co. "K", Champaign, Illinois.
DUBRUIEL, Wilfred A., Pfc., 31109381, Co. "E", Claremont, New Hampshire.
ECCLES, Charles J., Pfc., 31135111, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Fall River, Massachusetts.
FLANIGAN, James R., Pfc., 36813105, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Winneconne, Wisconsin.
GENS, August W., Jr., Pvt., 36283618, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
HAGEMEYER, Ralph O., S/Sgt., 35153031, Co. "F", Stendal, Indiana.
HENRY, William C., Pvt., 33441014, Co. "E", Indianhead, Pennsylvania.
HILBERT, Waldo B., Pvt., 33637873, Co. "E", Mount Crawford, Virginia.
LANE, Carl, S/Sgt., 34087223, Co. "H", Americus, Georgia.
LA PIERRE, Clarence J., Pvt., 31101187, Co. "K", Portland, Maine.
LESLIE, B. F., Pfc., 34659255, Co. "C", Lyman, South Carolina.
LEWIS, James R., Pfc., 33132276, Co. "L", Luttrellville, Virginia.
MALICKI, Chester S., Pvt., 36590832, Co. "H", Wyandotte, Michigan.
McDANIEL, John C., 2nd Lt., 0-1313273, Co. "G", Gary, Indiana.
MORTON, Howard E., Pfc., 34709120, Co. "G", Steele, Alabama.
NEUMANN, Earl R., Pfc., 33668719, Co. "G", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
NOLAN, William M., Pvt., 36483342, Co. "I", Oakland, Illinois.
OBUSH, Martin, Pfc., 33256195, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lucernemines, Pennsylvania.
PERKINS, John D., Jr., Pfc., 35291663, Co. "K", Newark, Ohio.
PULVER, Bernard L., 2nd Lt., 0-1309162, Co. "B", Port Angeles, Washington.
RAYMOND, Norman E., Pfc., 31265067, Co. "H", Suncoast, New Hampshire.
RITTER, Raymond W., Pvt., 35536525, Co. "F", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
ROSS, Carl, Pvt., 35800870, Co. "L", Chevrolet, Kentucky.
RUBY, Howard M., Pvt., 39199748, Co. "H", Seattle, Washington.
SEKUSKY, Harold E., Pfc., 33604058, Co. "M", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
SMITH, Boyd, Pfc., 34396460, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Gunterville, Alabama.
SONDELSKI, Zig J., Sgt., 36815124, Co. "E", Doney, Wisconsin.
SPLAIN, Francis T., Jr., Pfc., 32852793, Co. "M", Beacon, New York.
STEPHENSON, Dalton O., Pvt., 14157120, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Willow Springs, North Carolina.

1 MARCH 1944

ANGLEY, Carl J., Pvt., 32855471, Co. "I", Troy, New York.
BARKO, Andy S., Pfc., 36483281, Co. "K", Granite City, Illinois.
BAYNE, James E., Pvt., 36458253, Co. "A", Greensboro, North Carolina.
BELLAND, Robert M., Pfc., 37268640, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Wauburn, Minnesota.
BINEGAR, Robert E., Pfc., 35274048, Co. "K", Washington, Ohio.
BLACK, Dean P., Sgt., 35118769, Co. "C", Dayton, Ohio.
BLISS, Milo V., Pfc., 36590624, Co. "K", Plymouth, Michigan.
BLIZZARD, Elwood S., Pvt., 33606188, Co. "A", Noxon, Pennsylvania.
DANDOS, Pete, Pfc., 35631717, Co. "A", Martins Ferry, Ohio.
DURKEE, Charles R., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1319609, Co. "C", West Palm Beach, Florida.
FLAVIN, Lawrence W., Pfc., 34024160, Co. "M", East Boston, Massachusetts.
GAMELIN, Arthur J., Pvt., 31384181, Co. "E", Bristol, Rhode Island.
GOLDNER, Herman A., Pfc., 36463402, Co. "K", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
HARTMAN, Robert R., Pvt., 3138476, Co. "C", Baltimore, Maryland.
HASKEW, Sam T., Pvt., 34735399, Co. "K", Comfort, Tennessee.
HAYES, Henry C., Pvt., 34776339, Co. "C", Boomer, North Carolina.
JACOB, Robert J., Sgt., 35789091, Co. "M", Hamilton, Ohio.
LEXSINGER, Earl W., Pvt., 34329606, Co. "K", Nashville, Tennessee.
McCARTER, D. C., Pvt., 34651928, Co. "M", Spartanburg, South Carolina.
MORRISON, Carl K., Pfc., 33535603, Co. "G", Martinsville, Virginia.
POIDMORE, Frank J., Pfc., 35273565, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.

PROIA, Albert, Pfc., 32894167, Co. "C", Middletown, New York.
SIGMUN, Lewis E., Pvt., 15056666, Co. "C", Rock, West Virginia.
STANKOCH, Jerome L., Pfc., 36809764, Co. "K", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

2 MARCH 1944

ASCOLESE, Dominick S., Pfc., 31123940, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bridgeport, Connecticut.
BEELER, Thomas O., Pvt., 34736227, Co. "E", Washburn, Tennessee.
CHANIS, John P., Pfc., 32772849, Co. "F", Notely, New Jersey.
EWING, James F., Pvt., 13133049, Co. "M", Arnold, Pennsylvania.
GREENWALD, Robert L., Pfc., 35218373, Co. "E", Newark, Ohio.
KELL, Harold E., Pvt., 35410367, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., London, Ohio.
KLINE, James M., Pvt., 33140436, Co. "K", Amsterdam, New York.
MACZKA, Marion J., S/Sgt., 6920495, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
NORWOOD, Harold W., Pvt., 36462866, Co. "E", Kalamazoo, Michigan.
PRICE, James W., Pvt., 3561840, Regt. Hqrs. Co., Vienna, West Virginia.
WELDON, Lloyd M., Pvt., 38385341, Co. "L", Belcher, Louisiana.

3 MARCH 1944

ATHAS, William P., Capt., 0-1288348, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Salt Lake City, Utah.
CAMPBELL, William F., Pvt., 32796386, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.
CUMMINS, Albert B., Pvt., 35113970, Co. "L", McHenry, Kentucky.
CUNNINGHAM, Edward H., Pvt., 34736108, Co. "B", Greenback, Tennessee.
DASHNER, Merton D., Pvt., 32745331, Co. "F", Gouverneur, New York.
DEAN, Harlan E., Pfc., 35508123, Co. "B", Lobelia, West Virginia.
DENNIS, Neil W., Pvt., 34594158, Co. "B", Randleman, North Carolina.
DOHERTY, Joseph A., Cpl., 31062273, Co. "M", Manchester, Connecticut.
GARCIA, Emilio E., Pvt., 34024939, Co. "G", Tampa, Florida.
GLOSNER, James V., Pvt., 39465786, Med. Det., Opportunity, Washington.
KITSON, Earl E., Jr., Pfc., 36563087, Co. "I", Royal Oak, Michigan.
LAWLER, Harry J., S/Sgt., 35668507, Co. "L", Newport, Kentucky.
LEVAN, Donald R., Pfc., 33619391, Co. "I", Allentown, Pennsylvania.
MAILHOT, Roland J., Pvt., 31319907, Co. "L", Sanford, Maine.
MANUEL, Francis, Pfc., 31005443, Co. "F", Framingham, Massachusetts.
NIELSEN, Ross D., S/Sgt., 39027982, Co. "I", River, Utah.
PETTOGRASSIA, Fred J., Pvt., 32855417, Co. "I", Albany, New York.
REMETTA, Edward, Pfc., 33088315, Co. "I", Wilburton, Colorado, Pennsylvania.
SEE, Barnett J., Sgt., 37398578, Co. "M", Montgomery City, Missouri.
SILVEIRA, Joseph G., Pfc., 19000385, Co. "E", San Lorenzo, California.

4 MARCH 1944

ACHORN, Elmer A., Pvt., 31220658, Co. "E", Waldoboro, Maine.
AMENDOLA, Julio F., Pfc., 33693210, Co. "A", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
AUSTIN, Ernest E., Pfc., 33640184, Co. "A", Saxe, Virginia.
BAUMAN, William R., Pvt., 33139876, Co. "A", Alpena, Michigan.
BAUMANN, Louis, T/5, 12079249, Co. "A", Waterloo, Iowa.
BERKSHIRE, Arthur B., S/Sgt., 35256993, Co. "C", North Vernon, Indiana.
BRIDGES, Maurice W., Pfc., 34024567, Co. "A", Miami, Florida.
BRIN, Nathan H., Pvt., 31354055, Co. "E", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
BROOKS, Eldridge H., Pvt., 35604026, Co. "A", Ellet, Ohio.
BROWER, Herman E., Pfc., 35357929, Co. "A", Twelve Miles, Indiana.
BYERS, Omer S., 1st Sgt., 35281662, Co. "L", Clyde, Ohio.
CHISMER, Edward T., Pvt., 33463080, Co. "G", Kingston, Pennsylvania.
COLBATH, Chester G., Pvt., 31263619, Co. "A", Lowell, Massachusetts.
DEMETRE, Alexandre S., Pvt., 31025523, Co. "L", Uxbridge, Massachusetts.
D'SANZI, Creste J., Pvt., 33269611, Co. "A", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
FRESE, Wallace E., Pvt., 32954905, Co. "E", Yardville, New Jersey.
GAINOR, Summers H., Jr., Pvt., 33731752, Co. "E", Baltimore, Maryland.
HARTWIG, Wilbur R., Pvt., 36201787, Co. "B", Blair, Wisconsin.
KREPEL, Alphonso A., Pfc., 32930957, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Lockawanna, New York.
LEONARD, James E., Pvt., 31360143, Co. "A", Dorchester, Massachusetts.
MAHER, James A., Pvt., 32905107, Co. "A", Yonkers, New York.
MERRITT, Russell H., Pvt., 34822911, Co. "A", Cairo, Georgia.

MOUNTS, Mason W., Pvt., 35657756, Co. "G", Charleston, West Virginia.
RIGSBEE, Archie, Pvt., 34466791, Co. "I", Lumberton, North Carolina.
ROHLING, Gilbert L., Sgt., 37168158, Co. "L", Saint Paul, Minnesota.
VAN SCOYOC, Charles W., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1294568, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., North Seattle, Washington.
VIRAMONTES, John G., Sgt., 39170502, Co. "B", Redlands, California.

5 MARCH 1944

BAKER, Kenneth W., Pfc., 35201926, Co. "A", Ridgeley, West Virginia.
BERTRAM, Elmo, Pvt., 34730853, Co. "L", Jamestown, Tennessee.
CANTWELL, Clarence C., Pvt., 34736229, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Bean Station, Tennessee.
HOLTZMAN, Robert F., S/Sgt., 6843523, Co. "I", Carlisle, Pennsylvania.
MURRAY, Donald J., Pfc., 33600143, Co. "M", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

6 MARCH 1944

CARRUBBA, Harry J., Pvt., 31335395, Co. "L", Ansonia, Connecticut.
CHADD, John A., Pvt., 37603683, Co. "B", Morley, Missouri.
GROFF, David L., Pvt., 33639727, Co. "B", Sterling, Virginia.
HAHN, Joseph D., Pvt., 33640177, Co. "C", Richmond, Virginia.
HERNDON, Willis E., Pvt., 33564202, Co. "F", Axton, Virginia.
JUBINVILLE, Gerard J., Pfc., 31007489, Co. "C", Holyoke, Massachusetts.
KANNALLY, John H., Pvt., 31358915, Co. "A", Brighton, Massachusetts.
NEWMAN, Wayne L., Pvt., 39375810, Co. "K", Bremerton, Washington.
RUSSELL, Geran W., S/Sgt., 35101267, Co. "E", Webb, Kentucky.

7 MARCH 1944

DAVEY, John J., Pvt., 32852779, Co. "L", Hopewell Junction, New York.
HAGEN, Curtis G., Pfc., 37276496, Med. Det., Aneta, North Dakota.
KRUMROY, Melbert D., Pvt., 36463368, Co. "L", Ononach, Michigan.
TISCHER, Albert J., Pvt., 32878055, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.

8 MARCH 1944

RUTLEDGE, Robert G., Pvt., 31160387, Co. "E", Wakefield Middlesex, Massachusetts.

9 MARCH 1944

MARLETT, Wilburn, Pvt., 38405272, Co. "F", Mountain View, Oklahoma.
TORI, John A., Pfc., 19016129, Co. "K", Aberdeen, Washington.
ZACHRICH, Nelson R., Pvt., 35554228, Co. "B", New Bavaria, Ohio.

11 MARCH 1944

CONNELL, Jesse W., Pvt., 34023808, Co. "G", Bushnell, Florida.
KOSINSKI, Bernard S., Pvt., 36735584, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
MOONEY, George E., Pfc., 33403728, Co. "A", Washington, Pennsylvania.

12 MARCH 1944

BURKE, Woodrow, Pfc., 34802152, Co. "B", Carroll, Silas, Jr., Pvt., 38469003, Co. "B", Barnsdall, Oklahoma.
DOMINGUEZ, Antonio B., Pvt., 39285606, Co. "H", Los Angeles, California.
GIFUN, Donald E., Pvt., 31369202, Co. "L", Boston, Massachusetts.
HERNDON, Robert, Pvt., 35802936, Co. "A", Carrollton, Kentucky.
MALOCHLEB, Stanley J., Pvt., 36603963, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.

13 MARCH 1944

EVANS, Harold Y., Pfc., 35752389, Co. "H", Webster Springs, West Virginia.
GRAVES, Robert J., Pfc., 36583099, Co. "A", Flint, Michigan.
SKOWRONSKI, Louis F., Pvt., 32881321, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
TROJAK, Joseph W., Pvt., 36807269, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Phillips, Wisconsin.
WHITE, Chauncey L., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1317740, Co. "A", Salt Lake City, Utah.

14 MARCH 1944

ALLEN, William E., Pfc., 33113673, Co. "A", Leechburg, Pennsylvania.

16 MARCH 1944

BILSKI, Joseph J., Pvt., 32357606, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Ozone Park, New York.
MASSON, Russell G., Pfc., 20110766, Co. "B", Millbury, Massachusetts.

18 MARCH 1944

BOLEN, Charles J., Pvt., 33651524, Co. "A", Bluefield, Virginia.
LUSSY, Robert H., Pvt., 42006147, Co. "F", Whorton, New Jersey.
SEARS, Edwin C., Cpl., 31032437, Co. "H", Belmont, Massachusetts.

21 MARCH 1944
COLLETT, George F., Pfc., 33604433, Co. "A", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

22 MARCH 1944
DOOLEY, Donald C., Pfc., 31331218, Co. "L", Derby, Connecticut.

23 MARCH 1944
GRANGER, Percival H., Jr., Pvt., 33791125, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
KENTER, John W., Pvt., 33619439, Co. "D", North Wales, Pennsylvania.
O'DONNELL, William J., Pvt., 39279322, Co. "K", Inglewood, California.
ST. LAURENT, Lawrence V., Pvt., 20112616, Co. "I", Winchendon, Massachusetts.

24 MARCH 1944
MACEYKO, Albert V., Pvt., 33440977, Co. "L", Connelville, Pennsylvania.
MAHER, Edward L., 1st Lt., 0-1306869, Co. "K", Newton, Pennsylvania.
MILLER, William H., Pvt., 35579727, Co. "H", Indianapolis, Indiana.
MOORE, Richard D., Pfc., 33410541, Co. "F", Franklin, Pennsylvania.
STOUFFER, Ralph S., Pvt., 33502873, Co. "H", Shippenburg, Pennsylvania.
STRECKER, Leonard J., Sgt., 37210296, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Falls City, Nebraska.

25 MARCH 1944
ALEXAKOS, James G., 1st Sgt., 31078049, Co. "A", Lowell, Massachusetts.
BARE, Paul W., Pvt., 35871181, Co. "L", Pedro, Ohio.
BELL, James I., Pfc., 20419573, Co. "I", Day, Florida.
JANARO, Carmine R., Pvt., 32867707, Co. "I", New York, New York.

26 MARCH 1944
BONNER, Daniel J., Pvt., 33621625, Co. "K", Coal-dale, Pennsylvania.
KLAUSMAN, Walter A., 1st Lt., 0-350964, Co. "K", Syracuse, New York.

14 APRIL 1944
BROWN, Clement H., Cpl., 33636344, Co. "I", Hume, Virginia.

17 APRIL 1944
CARROW, Louis G., Pvt., 33731306, Co. "A", Baltimore, Maryland.

18 APRIL 1944
MATSAS, Donald, Pfc., 31308237, Co. "L", Somerville, Massachusetts.

19 APRIL 1944
BERDOU, Henry D., Pfc., 38375733, Co. "A", New Orleans, Louisiana.

20 APRIL 1944
HESS, James R., Pvt., 39198155, Co. "F", Belling-ham, Washington.

21 APRIL 1944
BOWMAN, Charles, Pfc., 35789400, Co. "K", Booneville, Kentucky.
COREY, Elliott L., Pfc., 35725147, Co. "L", Evansville, Indiana.
DE LA RONDE, Frederick R., Pvt., 36683061, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
DES VERGNES, Thomas, Pfc., 31253916, Co. "K", Buffalo, New York.
TITUS, Everett G. N., Jr., Pvt., 32999584, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.

22 APRIL 1944
ATENCIO, Armando S., Pvt., 37343085, Co. "L", Monte Vista, Colorado.
LIVERGOOD, Donald C., Pfc., 33149634, Co. "B", Leontes Mills, Pennsylvania.
ROGERS, Burl, Pfc., 34337451, Co. "B", Anniston, Alabama.

23 APRIL 1944
FRANK, Junior, Sgt., 19045999, Co. "I", Moapa, Nevada.
LONG, Harry W., Pvt., 35870344, Co. "B", Columbus, Indiana.
REGAN, William S., Pvt., 33747235, Co. "G", Wash-ington, District of Columbia.
SLAPE, Raymond W., Pvt., 32956782, Co. "G", Deep-water, New Jersey.

24 APRIL 1944
BASSETT, Harvey H., S/Sgt., 36128714, Co. "M", Wyandotte, Michigan.
CLAYTON, Calvin C., Pfc., 34594222, Co. "G", Box Boru, North Carolina.
CONNER, Ralph E., Pfc., 35330499, Co. "L", Chu-rubusco, Indiana.
DAY, Morris G., Pfc., 34637597, Co. "K", Rosetta, Mississippi.
HANDLEY, Charles W., T/5, 36196205, Co. "L", South Haven, Michigan.
HEBERT, Norman A., Pvt., 31373598, Co. "G", Rochester, New Hampshire.
PENNINGTON, Billy P., Pvt., 34890423, Co. "K", Gastonia, North Carolina.

25 APRIL 1944
STEWART, Samuel E., Pfc., 34024453, Co. "B", Hollywood, Florida.

26 APRIL 1944
ANDERSON, Nathan E., Pvt., 37292269, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Bemidji, Minnesota.
LEICY, Harold L., Pfc., 35632915, Co. "K", Mans-field, Ohio.

28 APRIL 1944
FABRY, Charles A., Pvt., 35609778, Co. "L", Akron, Ohio.
SCHMITT, Anthony P., Pvt., 37339828, Co. "B", Monument, Kansas.
STUMP, Charles W., Jr., Pvt., 35690890, Co. "B", De Pauw, Indiana.

22 MAY 1944
BARSAMIAN, Souren, Pvt., 31360243, Co. "L", Som-erville, Massachusetts.
FLANAGAN, J. C., Pvt., 34630235, Co. "I", Vance, Mississippi.

23 MAY 1944
AIELLO, Frank T., Pvt., 42008621, Co. "E", North-bergen, New Jersey.
AMORE, George L., Pvt., 36413421, Co. "K", Mare-nisco, Michigan.
BAUGHARD, Willie E., Pvt., 34884998, Co. "M", Mosheim, Pennsylvania.
BISHOP, Stanley V., Sgt., 33436428, Co. "L", Spring-boro, Pennsylvania.
BLALOCK, Coy., Pfc., 34594251, Co. "I", Timber Lake, North Carolina.
BLEVINS, William F., Sgt., 35650795, Co. "L", Ashland, Kentucky.
BROUTHERS, Addison F., Pfc., 32862975, Co. "L", Jackson Heights, New York.
BURAN, Steve L., Pfc., 33676590, Co. "M", Neville Island, Pennsylvania.
CAPRIO, Dore A., Pfc., 42008489, Co. "F", Newark, New Jersey.
CARDILLO, Gay, Pfc., 31031684, Co. "E", Roslin-dale, Massachusetts.
CARR, George F., Pfc., 32939503, Co. "F", Water-town, New York.

COOL, Truman A., S/Sgt., 20210595, Co. "F", Evans Mills, New York.
CREVISTON, Marvin W., Pfc., 36810621, Co. "F", Wilston, Wisconsin.
DAVIS, William J., 2nd Lt., 0-1289401, Co. "G", Freedom, Pennsylvania.
DUDLEY, Stanley J., Pvt., 31084952, Co. "A", Wor-cester, Massachusetts.
DURKEE, Louis H., 1st Lt., 0-1285026, Co. "M", Rochester, New York.

EBERHARDT, Donald W., Sgt., 36744049, Co. "I", Chicago, Illinois.
EIDSON, James W., Pfc., 34449282, Co. "G", Union City, Georgia.
FIERO, Oscar H., Jr., Pvt., 32942741, Co. "F", Chatham, New York.
FISH, Joseph H., Pvt., 31371666, Co. "K", West Medway, Massachusetts.
FREANO, Joseph W., Sgt., 35011080, Co. "M", Bristol, Tennessee.

HENRY, James, Pvt., 42011566, Co. "M", Clifton, New Jersey.
HITT, Horace L., S/Sgt., 34396662, Co. "F", York, Alabama.
HUTTO, Eldridge J., Pfc., 34651444, Co. "M", Ker-shan, South Carolina.
JOHNSON, Elmes J., Pvt., 32999593, Co. "G", New York, New York.

KELSCH, William R., Pfc., 36678222, Co. "L", Naperville, Illinois.

KIMBLE, Marion A., Cpl., 37157737, Cn. Co., Alma, Kansas.

KOVACEVICH, Francis, Pfc., 36355006, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.

LAMBERT, James R., Pvt., 34770834, Co. "H", Bry-son City, North Carolina.

LA PORTA, Charles J., Pfc., 32205151, Co. "L", Williamstown, New Jersey.

LE GRAND, Leonard M., Pvt., 37125950, Med. Det., Sioux City, Iowa.

LOWE, Francis L., Pfc., 31318284, Co. "H", Winter-port, Maine.

MATHIAS, Ervin M., Pvt., 34842347, Co. "G", West Columbia, South Carolina.

MCCRACKEN, James H., 1st Lt., 0-443182, Co. "K", Bridgeville, Pennsylvania.

McDERMOTT, Raymond J., Pvt., 13200221, AT Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

MELIA, Anthony R., Pvt., 32942728, Co. "F", Water-vliet, Albany, New York.

MILBOURNE, Ronald E., Pvt., 33382009, Co. "E", Crisfield, Maryland.

MONRREAL, Margarito, Pvt., 38459235, Co. "F", Devike, Texas.

MONTES, Raymond G., Pfc., 37703591, Co. "A", Longmont, Colorado.

PEPPIATT, Gordon A., Sgt., 32859703, Co. "M", Glensdale, New York.

PLESS, Joseph W., Pfc., 38474907, Co. "M", Troup, Texas.

PLYLER, Edward L., Pvt., 33764667, Co. "L", Heathville, Pennsylvania.

REYNOLDS, Blair V., Pvt., 34890125, Co. "H", Lincolnton, North Carolina.

RISTICH, Michael P., Pvt., 15019183, Co. "M", Youngstown, Ohio.

ROBINSON, Darol M., Pfc., 31350918, AT Co., Perry, Maine.

ROHAN, Samuel G., Pfc., 35608990, Co. "H", Youngs-town, Ohio.

ROSLOOF, James H., Sgt., 12159203, Co. "K", Lake-view, New York.

SHAMIRIAN, Shamir, Pvt., 31371865, Co. "K", Bos-ton, Massachusetts.

SMITH, Stanley E., Pfc., 37345982, Co. "M", Colo-rado Springs, Colorado.

SPALLINA, Joseph E., Pvt., 36688220, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
STILLWELL, Clarence E., Sgt., 38504979, Co. "I", Dewitt, Arkansas.
TURNER, Orville, Pfc., 33671053, Co. "E", South Connelville, Pennsylvania.
WALLACE, Glenn M., Pvt., 33508017, Co. "L", Wrightsville, Pennsylvania.
WERBIE, Thomas J., Pfc., 36202506, Co. "L", Ken-osha, Wisconsin.

24 MAY 1944
AALDERKS, John A., Sgt., 37268089, Co. "G", Ren-ville, Minnesota.
AUSTIN, Marvin T., Pvt., 35728895, Co. "C", Rem-sey, Kentucky.
BLANDENBURGO, Sal, Pvt., 32879629, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
BRADSHAW, Marion W., Pfc., 20421011, Co. "D", Wacissa, Florida.
BRYAN, Charles R., Pvt., 35765424, Co. "C", Ludlow, Kentucky.
BURKE, Charles O., T/Sgt., 35637209, Co. "L", Job, West Virginia.
BURNS, Ray E., Pfc., 33510909, Co. "B", Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
BUSCH, Richard R., Pfc., 42023454, Co. "C", Victor Ontario, New York.
COHEN, David, Pvt., 42035841, Co. "D", New York, New York.

COUGHLIN, Earl G., Pfc., 36457376, Co. "C", Mar-quette, Michigan.
DE GREGORY, Henry R., Pfc., 33666890, Co. "E", Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
DELPRÉ, Leonard, Pvt., 33573252, Co. "G", Indiana, Pennsylvania.
DEUTSCHMAN, Alfred J., Sgt., 32013578, Co. "D", Long Island City, New York.

FADEL, Saleh M., Pvt., 32697140, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.

GLEICH, Frederick J., Pfc., 36649718, Co. "I", Chi-cago, Illinois.

GONZALEZ, Dimas S., Pvt., 39124537, Co. "C", Decoto, California.

GRAHAM, Philip S., Pvt., 11132796, Co. "B", Som-erville, Massachusetts.

GREENMAN, Robert E., Pvt., 42033961, Co. "I", Brooklyn, New York.

HAMPTON, Oren R., Pvt., 33737583, Co. "D", Washington, District of Columbia.

HARTILL, Fred E., Pvt., 32913130, Co. "G", Rich-mond Hill, New York.

HASTINGS, Claude H., Pvt., 14161030, Co. "G", Jackson, Tennessee.

HAYNES, Robert E., S/Sgt., 31286150, Co. "C", East Long Meadow, Massachusetts.

HUNT, Bryan G., Pfc., 14116562, Co. "A", Hot Springs, Arkansas.

JORDAN, Thomas L., Jr., Pvt., 34792645, Co. "B", West Palm Beach, Florida.

KENNEDY, Charles M., Pfc., 34884578, Co. "K", Columbia, Tennessee.

NEGLESS, La Verne L., Sgt., 37251921, Co. "G", Holstein, Iowa.

POTTER, William P., Pfc., 37541855, Co. "E", White Earth, Minnesota.

PRESTON, Bascom E., Pvt., 35772726, Med. Det., Mila, Kentucky.

RICH, Ordway K., Pvt., 37540239, Co. "L", St. Joseph, Missouri.

SMITH, Lawrence O., Pfc., 6664649, Co. "E", Indi-anapolis, Indiana.

SNEAD, Ernest H., S/Sgt., 33455365, Co. "C", Wash-ington, District of Columbia.

SUTPHIN, James E., Pvt., 35650233, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Wyco, West Virginia.

TAYLOR, Albert, Pfc., 34739818, Co. "C", Rockwood, Tennessee.

THOMAS, Oha E., S/Sgt., 15045476, Co. "L", Foe-toria, Ohio.

TIEDEMAN, George R., Pvt., 32999684, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.

WILLIAMS, Warren B., S/Sgt., 19018636, Co. "I", Boyd, Montana.

ZINDA, Oliver J., Pvt., 36257287, Co. "C", Mil-waukee, Wisconsin.

ZWIERS, Walter J., Pvt., 36004181, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.

25 MAY 1944
ADAMAITIS, Frank J., Pvt., 31337988, Co. "C", Union City, Connecticut.

ADKINS, Earl, Jr., Pvt., 35767371, Co. "B", New Boston, Ohio.

BALL, William J., Pvt., 33602740, AT Co., Benton, Pennsylvania.

BEAN, Ray T., Pfc., 36350094, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.

BOND, Kermit A., Pfc., 32856016, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Massena, New York.

BROOKS, Dillon D., Pfc., 34024630, Co. "G", South Miami, Florida.

CANNIFF, Ralph I., Pfc., 32865404, Co. "I", Pleas-antville, New York.

CORNELIUS, Howard F., Jr., Pfc., 33139846, Co. "M", Fannettsburg, Pennsylvania.

D'ELIA, Pasquale, Pfc., 36867219, Co. "G", Dear-born, Michigan.

FELDMAN, Harry, Sgt., 33781689, Co. "E", Phila-delphia, Pennsylvania.

GROENEVELD, James A., Pvt., 36661458, Co. "D", Phoenix, Illinois.

HINDMAN, William C., Pvt., 33409144, Co. "D", Callensburg, Pennsylvania.

HOOVER, Richard H., Pfc., 34891550, Co. "B", Char-lotte, North Carolina.

HOUGHTON, William R., Sgt., 36463529, Co. "I", Mattawan, Michigan.

IADAROLA, Leo A., Sgt., 31086125, Co. "E", Milford, Massachusetts.
 JARES, Calvin L., Pfc., 39212147, Co. "K", Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
 JOHNSON, Maurice H., S/Sgt., 32026010, Co. "E", Elmira, New York.
 LARY, Henry P., S/Sgt., 20630974, Co. "K", Detroit, Michigan.
 MARTZ, Charles E., Pvt., 37538755, Co. "I", Kansas City, Missouri.
 MEGOWN, John N., Jr., Pfc., 19018555, Co. "A", St. Joseph, Missouri.
 RIVERA, Edward A., S/Sgt., 39161202, Co. "F", Los Angeles, California.
 ROCCICCIOLI, Ralph, 1st Lt., 0-1296427, Co. "K", Richmond, Virginia.
 SANNICONDRO, Rudolph A., Pvt., 32999697, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
 WILLIS, John E., Pvt., 12012037, Co. "I", Paulsboro, New Jersey.

26 MAY 1944

ALFIER, Nicholas, T/Sgt., 32279419, Co. "H", Phillipsburg, New Jersey.
 GIFFIN, Edgar R., 2nd Lt., 0-1301982, Co. "F", Guilford, Missouri.
 KOONCE, James E., Pvt., 34709179, Co. "I", Hazel Green, Alabama.
 LOPEZ, Joe, Pvt., 39696238, Co. "I", Merced, California.
 SCATES, Edward R., S/Sgt., 34048811, Co. "B", Lexington, Tennessee.
 SCIABARRA, Carlo, Pvt., 32419672, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.

27 MAY 1944

CHASE, Robert M., Pvt., 14064183, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co. CLARK, Clifford L., Sgt., 37068666, Co. "F", Eureka Springs, Arkansas.
 D'ALESSIO, Antonio, Pvt., 31387373, Co. "L", Providence, Rhode Island.
 DANIELIK, Steve, Pvt., 36830246, Co. "A", South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 FAGENBAUM, Joseph S., Pfc., 36128268, Co. "H", Detroit, Michigan.
 KELSEY, Adolph E., Pvt., 31405243, Co. "C", Waterbury, Connecticut.
 RICE, Timothy, Pfc., 33629221, Co. "K", Marshall, North Carolina.
 ROWLAND, William H., Pfc., 33149652, Co. "F", Niagara Falls, New York.
 SZABO, Anthony, Pfc., 33563514, Co. "A", Prince Georges, Maryland.
 WRIGHT, Robert S., Pvt., 13120313, Co. "F", Metuchen, New Jersey.

28 MAY 1944

BOWMAN, James, Pvt., 33775159, Co. "A", Cheney, Pennsylvania.
 BUSH, James H., Pvt., 33209780, Co. "B", Kansas City, Kansas.
 CHASING CROW, Vernon P., Sgt., 17005575, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Miami, Florida.
 CONDON, Robert W., Pvt., 31345526, Co. "A", Simsbury, Connecticut.
 COSHAREK, Nicholas, Pvt., 33149659, Co. "A", Johnstown, Pennsylvania.
 DAVIS, James, Pvt., 15354890, Med. Det., Coshen, Indiana.
 DENEHY, George A., Pvt., 32765308, Co. "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.
 ERICKSON, Rudolph M., S/Sgt., 39303453, Co. "A", Quincy, Oregon.
 EWING, Robert E., Pvt., 35225202, Co. "K", Grand Island, Nebraska.
 HEINTZ, Louis K., Pfc., 38382581, Co. "A", Waco, Texas.
 JAY, Clinton H., Pvt., 35235124, Co. "K", Youngstown, Ohio.
 MAGARO, Peter N., Pfc., 36679116, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
 McCARVELL, Herbert D., Pvt., 11085949, Co. "B", Winooki, Vermont.
 MOYER, Glenn A., Pfc., 33606596, Co. "A", Berwick, Pennsylvania.
 OSIPOFF, Michael, Pvt., 36871817, Co. "A", Dearborn, Michigan.
 ROUX, Adrien J. P., Pvt., 31321309, Co. "B", Sabbathus, Maine.
 STERNFELD, Bernard, Pvt., 32790962, Co. "A", Bronx, New York.
 TANCIN, George, Pvt., 33602219, Co. "I", Upper Lehigh, Pennsylvania.

29 MAY 1944

BERARDI, Nello L., Pvt., 35556856, Co. "B", Sandusky, Ohio.
 CASWELL, Henry J., Pvt., 36763354, Co. "K", Collinsville, Illinois.
 DROBNIOWSKI, Chester G., Pfc., 36296704, Co. "H", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 GODA, David, Pvt., 33743581, Co. "K", Washington, District of Columbia.
 McKNIGHT, Wendel L., S/Sgt., 16014078, Co. "D", Charlotte, Michigan.
 MURPHY, Ernest C., Pfc., 34763507, Co. "D", Lavonia, Georgia.

30 MAY 1944

DANZER, Harry, Pvt., 32539865, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 ORTIZ, Joseph, Pvt., 36661574, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.
 PENA, Ysidro T/4, 38032209, AT Co., Floresville, Texas.
 RIENKS, Louis M., Pfc., 36463475, Co. "G", Grand Rapids, Michigan.

SZCZEPANSKI, Charles J., Sgt., 36196321, Co. "B", Vermontville, Michigan.
 TESTA, Charles F., Pfc., 32664467, Co. "G", Utica, New York.

31 MAY 1944

ADAMS, John R., Pvt., 37721801, Co. "L", Essington, Pennsylvania.
 ANDRESS, Floyd J., Sgt., 35346392, Co. "I", Geneva, Indiana.
 BISPHAM, Edward J., Pvt., 35913416, Co. "D", Cleveland, Ohio.
 BOROWSKI, Walter J., S/Sgt., 36601715, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 CHAMBERS, John M., Pvt., 34852300, Co. "K", Timberlake, North Carolina.
 DARLACK, Stanley G., Pvt., 33897870, Co. "K", Baltimore, Maryland.
 GOODWIN, Clarence P., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1319734, Co. "L", Gonzales, Texas.
 HEISLER, Arthur W., Pvt., 39620610, Co. "I", Billings, Montana.
 HOUE, Raymond A., Pvt., 31389866, Co. "L", Gardner, Massachusetts.
 JARRETT, Benjamin F., Jr., Pfc., 34881149, Co. "K", Memphis, Tennessee.
 LEWIS, Harold T., Pfc., 11015072, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Lancaster, New Hampshire.
 MANDEL, David, Pvt., 32886455, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
 PEOPLES, Donald J., Pvt., 32366880, Co. "K", Trenton, New Jersey.
 SCHUMACHER, John L., Pvt., 33749492, Co. "L", Washington, District of Columbia.
 SILVIA, John H., Pvt., 31370595, Co. "K", Brockton, Massachusetts.
 STEFEIN, Vincent W., Pvt., 39921059, Co. "I", Salt Lake City, Utah.
 THORNBURG, Kenneth K., Pvt., 39468316, Co. "I", Babbitt, Nevada.
 VERNON, Phillip H., Pvt., 34893595, Co. "I", Winston Salem, North Carolina.

1 JUNE 1944

ALTHOUSE, Robert E., Pvt., 33833644, Co. "A", Lebanon, Pennsylvania.
 COFFMAN, Paul R., Pvt., 33655857, Co. "A", Saint Charles, Virginia.
 COOK, Charles R., Pfc., 36582453, Co. "A", Essexville, Michigan.
 DAVIDOVITZ, Alfred, Pvt., 35314780, Co. "K", Cleveland, Ohio.
 DWYER, Joseph E., Pfc., 31292559, Co. "D", Providence, Rhode Island.
 GREEN, Samuel T., Jr., Pfc., 33218655, Co. "M", Tip Top, Virginia.
 HAYES, Otis E., Jr., Pvt., 33898066, Co. "L", Owings Mills, Maryland.
 HOUGH, George M., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-311788, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
 HUNDRUP, Anton W., S/Sgt., 37328359, Co. "A", Dayton, Ohio.
 LEVY, Harry E., Capt., 0-1292548, Co. "H", Halethorpe, Maryland.
 LINTHICUM, Franklin A., Pvt., 33897976, Co. "F", Baltimore, Maryland.
 MASCIANGI, Albert W., Pvt., 35282321, Co. "L", Niles, Ohio.
 McCOY, James L., Pvt., 33656607, Co. "A", Covington, Virginia.
 NAIL, Leo A., Pvt., 35174426, Co. "A", Youngstown, Ohio.
 NEVILL, Thomas C., T/5, 42006323, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Fords, New Jersey.
 NIX, Robert W., III, 1st Lt., 0-387880, Co. "A", Waterford, Virginia.
 RENO, Sterling, Sgt., 34335473, Co. "K", New Castle, Alabama.
 SALVETA, Leo, Pvt., 36587618, Co. "M", Detroit, Michigan.
 SMITH, Wilbur L., Pvt., 34793135, Co. "F", Winter Park, Florida.
 TILDEN, William T., Pvt., 34679212, Co. "A", High Point, North Carolina.
 UNDERHILL, Frederick M., Jr., Pfc., 31337961, Co. "F", Danbury, Connecticut.
 VASTOLA, Sam M., Pvt., 42025086, Co. "A", Buffalo, New York.
 VICIC, Frank J., Pvt., 33573035, Co. "A", Lloydell, Pennsylvania.
 WOZNEAK, Joseph G., Pvt., 33683166, Co. "D", Warren, Pennsylvania.

2 JUNE 1944

DYKE, Lawrence, Pvt., 33678303, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 LANGE, Arthur H., Pvt., 39921122, Co. "F", Rockwell City, Iowa.
 LUEBKE, Arden D., Pfc., 36832865, Co. "F", Beloit, Wisconsin.
 MANUES, Roy L., Pvt., 37617474, Co. "F", Pevely, Missouri.
 MARTEL, Ferdinand J., Pfc., 17006108, Co. "A", Medina, North Dakota.
 ROMANO, Frank J., Pfc., 31353243, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 ROUSH, Jacob R., Jr., Pfc., 35708241, Co. "E", Terre Haute, Indiana.

3 JUNE 1944

ABERNATHY, Thomas C., Pvt., 34891470, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Boger City, North Carolina.
 BANKS, Stacy O., Pvt., 33656696, Co. "C", Lyndhurst, Virginia.
 BOYER, Earl W., Pfc., 35201849, Co. "A", Mason City, West Virginia.
 DAY, Ernest E., Sgt., 37550182, Co. "C", Carrington, North Dakota.

DEEGAN, Thomas J., Jr., Pvt., 31305530, Co. "K", Boston, Massachusetts.
 DOERNER, Wayne, Pfc., 36763156, Co. "K", Granite City, Illinois.
 GRASTY, Charles F., Pfc., 33646485, Co. "K", Orange, Virginia.
 LARGE, Charles W., Pvt., 33735974, Co. "D", Lenoir City, Tennessee.
 RANEY, John S., 1st Lt., 0-1300217, Co. "M", Brooklyn, New York.
 SCULLEY, Thomas H., 2nd Lt., 0-1324194, Co. "K", Long Island, New York.
 SWETT, Roy A., Pvt., 35933627, Co. "I", Atlanta, Georgia.
 TOFFEY, John J., III, Lt. Col., 0-335348, RF&S, Columbus, Ohio.
 VALENTINO, Joseph J., Pvt., 32862639, Co. "L", Brooklyn, New York.
 WALE, Albert J., Pvt., 39140759, Co. "K", San Francisco, California.
 WALKER, William C., Pvt., 39711328, Co. "K", Bell, California.
 WILLIAMS, Francis B., Pvt., 33658362, Co. "K", Strasburg, Virginia.
 WINTERS, Robert V., Pfc., 32855605, Co. "K", Randall, New York.
 ZISNER, Irving, Pvt., 32999544, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.

4 JUNE 1944

KORPAK, Alex., Pvt., 32848072, Co. "L", Syracuse, New York.
 MEENAN, Joseph R., Pvt., 31387368, Co. "I", Providence, Rhode Island.
 NAKTENIS, George M., Pvt., 31378756, Co. "L", Hartford, Connecticut.
 SAUNDERS, Robert P., Pvt., 42035347, Co. "G", Hudson Falls, New York.
 SPENCER, Edward S., S/Sgt., 34730971, Co. "L", Louisville, Tennessee.
 WEISS, Seymour, Pvt., 32997446, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.

5 JUNE 1944

SARGEANT, Marvin, Pvt., 34813828, Co. "D", Notasulga, Alabama.
 SCOTHORN, George M., Pvt., 37566716, Co. "A", Watertown, South Dakota.
 NOBLE, Montie P., S/Sgt., 6666850, Co. "A", Anco, Kentucky.

19 JUNE 1944

MOEDE, Owen F., Pvt., 37576031, Co. "I", Forrest Lake, Minnesota.

21 JUNE 1944

McCOY, Andrew C., Pvt., 34735213, Co. "A", Frankfort, Tennessee.

Campaign of Southern France

15 AUGUST 1944

ADDIS, Gerald J., S/Sgt., 35153522, Co. "G", Albion, Indiana.
 ARSENAULT, George C., Sgt., 31398687, Co. "A", Rumford, Maine.
 BARTLESON, John L., Pvt., 31385400, Co. "H", Providence, Rhode Island.
 BILLS, Charles R., Pfc., 38513153, Co. "G", Olney, Texas.
 BOLLEN, Chester H., Pvt., 33670271, Co. "D", Westview, Pennsylvania.
 BURKE, Melon J., Pvt., 18062227, Med. Det., Orange, Texas.
 CASPER, Selwyn S., Pfc., 37268744, Co. "F", Tracy, Minnesota.
 CONWAY, Mino T., Pvt., 33833516, Co. "K", Norristown, Pennsylvania.
 COOK, Robert O., Sgt., 37399195, Co. "F", Hallsville, Missouri.
 COOPERBERG, Harold, Pfc., 6584709, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
 COUGHLIN, Francis X., Pvt., 13200381, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 CRAMPTON, Merle O., Pfc., 33562048, Co. "G", Fairplay, Maryland.
 CREAM, John J., 2nd Lt., 0-1317971, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
 CUCCINIELLO, William S., S/Sgt., 31305626, Co. "K", Chelsea, Massachusetts.
 DAVENPORT, Harry I., Pfc., 20112414, Co. "G", Dudley, Massachusetts.
 DAVIS, Sammie, Pvt., 34810327, Co. "D", Springville, Alabama.
 DI MATTEO, Joseph M., Pfc., 33600188, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 DURANDO, Thomas J., Pvt., 32805917, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
 EAST, Harry F., Pvt., 35897116, Co. "G", Michigan City, Indiana.
 EIDSON, Wyman, Pvt., 34686454, Co. "G", Augusta, Georgia.
 FINOCCHIARO, Fred H., Cpl., 33139369, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 FITZGERALD, Francis J., Pfc., 42013264, Co. "A", Union City, New Jersey.
 FLETKE, Gilbert E., Sgt., 36121410, Regt. Hqs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
 FRIEDLANDER, Herman H., Pvt., 38286638, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Dallas, Texas.
 FRY, Cecil O., Pvt., 39136975, Co. "F", Watsonville, California.
 HALE, James L., S/Sgt., 35668320, Co. "E", Bimble, Kentucky.

HAZEN, James W., Jr., Pfc., 38126940, Co. "K", Ponca City, Oklahoma.
 HERBERT, Joseph J., Pvt., 38258467, Co. "D", Guey Dam, Louisiana.
 HOWARD, Murt M., Pfc., 33291294, Co. "G", Duquesne, Pennsylvania.
 KAFKA, William J., Pfc., 36662490, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
 KERSEY, Robert L., Pvt., 39419308, Co. "F", Dyess, Arkansas.
 KING, George, Pfc., 32166977, Co. "D", Bayonne, New Jersey.
 KOSIBA, Joseph, Pfc., 36856688, Co. "F", Detroit, Michigan.
 MARENGO, Clarence L., Sgt., 19018731, Co. "F", Arlee, Montana.
 MILLER, Orren J., Pfc., 35870197, Co. "B", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 MORLEY, Maynard R., Pfc., 36570015, Co. "G", Detroit, Michigan.
 NIEDZWIECKI, Chester J., Pfc., 36810453, Co. "F", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 NORLING, Sven R., Pfc., 37283676, Co. "H", McIntosh, Minnesota.
 ORGANIS, John S., Pfc., 32877944, Co. "G", McAdoo, Pennsylvania.
 PACION, Frank A., Pfc., 36875185, Co. "G", Dearborn, Michigan.
 PARKER, Ivan H., Pvt., 39336524, Co. "E", Eugene, Oregon.
 ROSS, Ernest N., Pfc., 20111605, Co. "G", Old Orchard, Oregon.
 SCHULTZ, Harold A., 1st Lt., 0-1315974, Co. "D", Naspeth, New York.
 SEILF, Paul F., Pvt., 42024845, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
 SHELTON, Simon P., S/Sgt., 6925690, Co. "F", Flag Pond, Tennessee.
 SHAFER, Robert H., S/Sgt., 33678996, Co. "F", Elderton, Pennsylvania.
 SMITH, Robert E., Pfc., 19014213, Co. "G", Portland, Oregon.
 SORBER, George W., Pvt., 32235114, Co. "B", Harrison, New Jersey.
 STAWIARSKI, Stanley, Pfc., 36164255, Co. "A", Detroit, Michigan.
 ST. HILAIRE, Adrien J., Pvt., 31320407, Co. "G", Lewiston, Maine.
 STREETER, William H., Pfc., 37357378, Co. "B", Cheyenne, Wyoming.
 SWAYNE, Robert J., Sr., Sgt., 33656649, Co. "G", Galax, Virginia.
 TAKACS, John J., Jr., Pvt., 35915675, Co. "G", Kellington, Ohio.
 TAURIANEN, Robert E., Pvt., 36451333, Co. "G", Hurontown, Michigan.
 THIELBAR, Edward T., Jr., Pvt., 36686570, Co. "G", Elgin, Illinois.
 TOINEETA, Jeremiah, Pfc., 34599187, Co. "F", Cherokee, North Carolina.
 WALL, John P., Pvt., 31306196, Co. "B", Roxbury, Massachusetts.
 WILLIAMS, Robert J., Sgt., 32877114, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.

16 AUGUST 1944

BEEVER, John D., Pvt., 36481547, Co. "C", Peking, Illinois.
 CASSIDY, Edwin H., Pfc., 31196154, Co. "G", Etowah, Tennessee.
 CHILENSKY, John, 2nd Lt., 0-1321154, Co. "A", Colliers, West Virginia.
 GERMANY, Roy B., Pfc., 34624431, Co. "C", Centreville, Mississippi.
 WEBSTER, Charles H., Pvt., 31245250, Med. Det., Wakefield, Rhode Island.

17 AUGUST 1944

HEGLUND, Dale L., Pvt., 39336002, Co. "G", Columbia, Oregon.
 HORYT, Edward S., Pfc., 42012303, Co. "E", Elizabeth, New Jersey.
 SPARK, Albert J., Sgt., 37035953, Co. "H", Logan, Iowa.

18 AUGUST 1944

BERCHOLLY, Thomas F., S/Sgt., 7031867, Co. "L", Macon, Georgia.
 CARSON, Joseph C., Pfc., 34147942, Co. "E", Memphis, Tennessee.
 DE FILIPPO, Anthony J., Pvt., 32944002, Co. "L", Ballston Spa, New York.
 SELF, Louis J., Pfc., 34726986, Co. "A", Flintville, Tennessee.
 SIME, Richard C., 2nd Lt., 0-1313401, Co. "L", Aberdeen, South Dakota.

19 AUGUST 1944

SAYLOR, Leonard H., Pvt., 33735891, Co. "G", Rarburg, Maryland.

21 AUGUST 1944

BONoyer, Francis T., S/Sgt., 31025499, Co. "C", Northbridge, Massachusetts.
 NICHOLS, Robert R., Pfc., 35609106, Co. "C", Hopdale, Ohio.

22 AUGUST 1944

McGHAN, Paul V., 1st Lt., 0-1317098, Co. "K", Saratoga Springs, New York.

23 AUGUST 1944

BURRIS, Othie, Pvt., 35622783, Co. "A", Alger, Ohio.
 GOETZ, Carl A., Pvt., 32756131, Co. "G", Mays Landing, New Jersey.

28 AUGUST 1944

CUNNINGHAM, Joe R., Jr., Pfc., 34736302, Co. "B", Grayville, Tennessee.
 FARMER, Leslie H., Pvt., 35101309, Co. "K", Lewisburg, Kentucky.
 HAGAN, Stephen J., Pvt., 31372165, Co. "K", Salem, Massachusetts.
 SWEIGARD, Harold H., Pvt., 17011447, Co. "K", Stanton, Nebraska.

29 AUGUST 1944

DIEHL, William H., Pfc., 35870266, Co. "K", Canton, Ohio.
 FERNALD, Harold L., Jr., T/Sgt., 11039985, Co. "K", Nottingham, New Hampshire.
 FOTTENBURY, Otis O., 2nd Lt., 0-2055045, Co. "M", Arkington Heights, Ohio.
 MUNGAY, William, Pfc., 42050654, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 SMITH, James E., Pfc., 34827727, Co. "I", Thomas-ton, Georgia.
 STANSBERRY, Ray, Pfc., 35671525, Co. "K", Brook-side, Kentucky.
 STEINER, John H., S/Sgt., 35010988, Co. "K", New Philadelphia, Ohio.

2 SEPTEMBER 1944

FALKOWSKI, John S., Pfc., 32468539, Co. "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.

4 SEPTEMBER 1944

KROVCHUCK, William E., Pvt., 17017625, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 WARR, Robert L., Sgt., 34645109, Co. "F", Camden, South Carolina.

5 SEPTEMBER 1944

MERRIHEW, Harry L., Jr., Pfc., 32942820, Co. "F", Plattburg, New York.
 MULLER, James E., Pvt., 32863019, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jackson Heights, New York.
 SMITH, James V., Sgt., 36446959, Co. "F", Peoria, Illinois.

6 SEPTEMBER 1944

HERRERA, John A., Pfc., 37342763, Co. "G", Denver, Colorado.
 KESTERSON, Doyle D., Pfc., 38511648, Co. "E", Dierks, Arkansas.
 KLATTE, Ralph C., Pvt., 35808118, Co. "C", Terre Haute, Indiana.
 MEYER, Charles F., Pfc., 32642713, Co. "E", White Stone, Long Island, New York.
 TAYLOR, Shuba W., Pfc., 33515013, Co. "L", Wash- ington, District of Columbia.
 TRUPIANO, Dominick J., Pfc., 38495315, Co. "L", Marrero, Louisiana.
 URBA, Walter, Pfc., 42010378, Co. "G", Kearny, New Jersey.

7 SEPTEMBER 1944

CRAWFORD, Woodrow W., Pfc., 32327052, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 FUCHS, Herbert B., Pvt., 42035880, Co. "M", Brook- lyn, New York.
 GREEN, Robert A., Pvt., 33640171, Co. "B", Sand- ston, Virginia.
 MONTGOMERY, John F., Jr., Pfc., 12101216, Co. "B", Livingston, New Jersey.
 TOLBERT, Raymond W., Pvt., 33898059, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
 WALBERT, George W., Pvt., 33832047, Co. "B", Easton, Pennsylvania.

9 SEPTEMBER 1944

DAVIS, Lucius S., Jr., Capt., 0-381599, Co. "M", Seattle, Washington.
 DRAPER, James H., Cpl., 36678085, Co. "M", Ohio, Illinois.
 HAYES, Frank, Pfc., 35101321, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Henderson, Kentucky.
 MONASTERIO, Fidel, Pfc., 39683311, Co. "M", Mount Home, Idaho.
 TAMBURINE, Albert J., Pvt., 33683168, Co. "M", Warren, Pennsylvania.

10 SEPTEMBER 1944

GREENE, Julian F., S/Sgt., 14142174, Co. "M", Warwick, Georgia.
 HARRIS, John W., Pfc., 33642983, Co. "G", Norfolk, Virginia.
 MALLOY, George, Pvt., 32777092, Co. "L", Newark, New Jersey.
 PATTERSON, Elwyn D., Pfc., 35224861, Co. "L", Logan, Ohio.
 VERMEULEN, Edward F., Pfc., 36453887, Co. "G", Kalamazoo, Michigan.

11 SEPTEMBER 1944

ALEXANDER, John F., Pfc., 39011010, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Richmond, California.
 ALLEY, Willis D., Pfc., 6947333, Co. "M", Balti- more, Maryland.
 GRIFFIN, Virgil R., T/5, 36459455, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Battle Creek, Michigan.
 HANNON, Ernest E., Pfc., 31051221, Co. "K", Provi- dence, Rhode Island.

12 SEPTEMBER 1944

BEVINS, Edward J., Sgt., 31009111, Co. "L", Hart- ford, Connecticut.

13 SEPTEMBER 1944

CASTONGUAY, Raymond J., S/Sgt., 31378806, Co. "K", Hartford, Connecticut.
 KATZ, Sidney, T/5, 32820255, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.
 McCLELLAN, Harold J., Sgt., 34256684, Co. "A", Charlotte, North Carolina.
 POTISUK, Stephen, Sgt., 35607984, Co. "L", Kent, Ohio.
 SANDERS, Henry, Pfc., 39537850, Co. "K", Compton, California.
 SHULL, Elmer J., Pfc., 34884793, Co. "K", Elizabeth, Tennessee.

14 SEPTEMBER 1944

ADLER, Harold, Pfc., 32539690, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Bronx, New York.
 ANCANAGE, Joseph S., 2nd Lt., 0-1319909, Cn. Co., Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 EVANS, Rufus, Jr., Pfc., 34808814, Co. "C", Brewton, Alabama.
 GOODWIN, James A., Sgt., 36649957, Co. "A", Herrin, Illinois.
 LOWE, James D., Pvt., 34893216, Co. "A", Spring- field, North Carolina.
 NALBONE, Angelo C., Pvt., 32957274, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Trenton, New Jersey.
 OLSEN, Stanley K., Pvt., 36870857, Co. "B", Detroit, Michigan.
 STREHLE, Frank, 2nd Lt., 0-1287780, Co. "A", New Orleans, Louisiana.
 STUMP, Robert W., Pfc., 35668212, Co. "C", Nor- wood, Ohio.
 TROTTER, Morris L., Pfc., 34187574, Co. "K", Cun- ington, Tennessee.
 VAILLANCOURT, Ernest J., Pfc., 31261860, Cn. Co., Northbridge, Massachusetts.

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15 SEPTEMBER 1944

BLACKWOOD, Arthur J., 2nd Lt., 0-2055944, Co. "H", Donnybrook, North Dakota.
 BURKHARDT, Richard L., 1st Lt., 0-439204, Co. "D", Xenia, Ohio.
 CANALE, William T., Pfc., 34738331, Co. "L", Memphis, Tennessee.
 D'ANGELO, Thomas, Sgt., 32880883, Co. "D", New York, New York.
 DEBO, Ralph V., Pfc., 35273920, Co. "M", Canton, Ohio.
 DEEMER, Howard K., Pvt., 33674988, Co. "L", Zelenople, Pennsylvania.
 DUBY, Bernard L., Pvt., 20631945, Co. "M", Saginaw, Michigan.
 GOLDSMITH, James H., Pvt., 33897968, Co. "L", Prince George, Maryland.
 HALL, Noah B., Pfc., 34571293, Co. "L", Adel, Georgia.
 HANSON, Thomas E., Pfc., 39683352, Co. "M", Salt Lake City, Utah.
 KUHN, Harry T., Jr., S/Sgt., 33240415, Co. "A", Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
 MORRIS, Sherman, Pvt., 35728716, Co. "D", Wick- life, Kentucky.
 PERKINS, Thomas J., Pfc., 36811183, Co. "I", Superior, Wisconsin.
 SARDO, Pasquale, Pfc., 31259645, Co. "M", Fitch- burg, Massachusetts.
 SCOTT, George W., Pfc., 34880182, Co. "I", McMin- ville, Tennessee.
 SHAPIRO, Bernard M., Pvt., 32995258, Co. "I", Brooklyn, New York.
 THOMPSON, Kenneth J., S/Sgt., 19012297, Co. "D", Alamo, California.
 THOMPSON, William B., Pfc., 34625185, Co. "C", Aberdeen, Mississippi.
 VALERI, Ernest, Sgt., 32999605, Co. "I", White Plains, New York.
 YANISH, William G., S/Sgt., 33109588, Co. "I", Sheffield, Pennsylvania.

16 SEPTEMBER 1944

CATALANO, Angelo J., S/Sgt., 31040314, Co. "C", Willimantic, Connecticut.
 DIOGUARDI, Joseph C., Sgt., 36031259, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
 HIRZEL, Howard H., Jr., Pfc., 32959378, Co. "L", Baltimore, Maryland.
 NELSON, John D., Pfc., 33384450, Co. "D", Cris- field, Maryland.

18 SEPTEMBER 1944

FELKEL, Absalom C., Pfc., 34651526, Co. "D", Elio- ree, South Carolina.

20 SEPTEMBER 1944

LEONARD, Ocko F., Pvt., 34114070, Co. "I", Lexing- ton, North Carolina.
 McELVEEN, Joseph M., 1st Lt., 0-1298894, Co. "D", Charlotte, North Carolina.
 SCHUTT, Melvin J., Jr., Pfc., 31341731, Co. "E", South Egremont, Massachusetts.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944

BOGER, Arthur O., Pvt., 33833651, Co. "A", Leban- ion, Pennsylvania.
 BUSCHEL, Leonard, 1st Lt., 0-1302948, Co. "L", New York, New York.
 CAMPBELL, Tyler, Capt., 0-1309513, Co. "A", Tow- son, Maryland.
 OLIVE, Edward J., Pfc., 37554803, Co. "A", Carlton, Minnesota.
 PRIDEMORE, Albert T., Pfc., 34491946, Co. "A", Knoxville, Tennessee.

22 SEPTEMBER 1944
EGGLEFIELD, William R., Sgt., 32942379, Co. "A", Elizabethtown, New York.
FINE, William, Pvt., 13177900, Co. "K", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
GILBERT, James J., Pvt., 32997892, Co. "I", Brooklyn, New York.
MILLER, Walter E., Pvt., 33441004, Co. "A", Acme, Pennsylvania.
NEVILLE, Thomas J., Pfc., 32666323, Co. "D", Troy, New York.
TARLETON, Francis G., Pvt., 34852171, Co. "I", Wadesboro, North Carolina.
WHITE, Elmer W., Pvt., 34891493, Co. "I", Germantown, North Carolina.
YAVANISKI, John J., Pvt., 32852640, Co. "D", Hoosick Falls, New York.

24 SEPTEMBER 1944
COGAR, Fred, Pfc., 35202017, Co. "K", White Pine, West Virginia.
HARNETT, Thomas M., S/Sgt., 32230016, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.
JONES, Leonard A., T/Sgt., 33443644, Co. "K", Roseville, Virginia.
THORNBURGH, Joseph W., Pfc., 38052053, Co. "F", Crosby, Texas.

25 SEPTEMBER 1944
BLAHA, Richard J., Pfc., 36744010, Co. "C", Berwyn, Illinois.
CASE, Arthur D., S/Sgt., 19014941, Regt. Hqs. Co., Westley, California.
CHRISTIAN, Clarence A., Pvt., 37704977, Co. "I", Denver, Colorado.
DENNING, Adrian I., Jr., T/Sgt., 33044628, Co. "E", Washington, District of Columbia.
EARP, Otis G., Pfc., 36810585, Co. "H", La Crosse, Wisconsin.
GARDNER, Calvin R., Pfc., 33434139, Co. "H", Weepville, Pennsylvania.
MILLS, Thomas K., S/Sgt., 36739081, Co. "M", Whitestone, South Carolina.

26 SEPTEMBER 1944
JOHNSON, Melvin M., Pvt., 36667711, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
REYES, Richard J., Pvt., 38462227, Co. "I", San Antonio, Texas.
RYSER, Cornelius J., S/Sgt., 36369095, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.

27 SEPTEMBER 1944
COCHENOUR, Howard G., Pfc., 33689338, Co. "A", McKees Rock, Pennsylvania.
DI DONATO, William J., Pfc., 33792454, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
HACKER, John L., Pvt., 35501979, Co. "A", Hamilton, Ohio.
HAUGHT, James M., Pfc., 33671852, Co. "A", New Jonkman, Boniface, Pfc., 32779339, Co. "H", Patterson, New Jersey.
KITTRIDGE, Marvin J., Pvt., 31392096, Co. "A", Worcester, Massachusetts.
MANGIGIAN, Minas G., Pfc., 39023368, Co. "A", Los Angeles, California.
SCHAFER, Thomas A., Pfc., 35919516, Co. "A", Cleveland, Ohio.
WALTERS, Arthur A., Pvt., 36713728, Co. "A", Eau Claire, Michigan.
WYNN, Harvey E., Cpl., 17003540, Co. "I", Saint Paul, Minnesota.

28 SEPTEMBER 1944
HENSON, Delma, Pfc., 38437350, Co. "E", McGregor, Texas.
POMPEI, Daniel R., Sgt., 33618465, Co. "E", Perkasie, Pennsylvania.
SOJA, Edward F., Pfc., 33511669, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

29 SEPTEMBER 1944
ADAMIAN, Vahey A. J., Pvt., 31308506, Co. "C", Arlington, Massachusetts.
CUMMINGS, James T., Pfc., 37108861, AT Co., Prescott, Arkansas.
GALFRE, Vincent A., Pfc., 31134283, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Middleboro, Massachusetts.
GIDCUMB, Alfred W., Pvt., 36687359, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Harrisburg, Illinois.
LOVETT, Joseph G., Pvt., 31408849, Co. "F", Waterbury, Connecticut.
TARTAGLIA, Frank, Pfc., 32776834, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Kearny, New Jersey.
WHITNEY, Donald R., Pfc., 37666201, AT Co., Dundee, Iowa.

30 SEPTEMBER 1944
ARROWSMITH, Stanley D., 1st Sgt., 34210075, Co. "I", Winoosboro, South Carolina.
AUGUSTYN, Anthony S., Sgt., 12133547, Co. "L", Trenton, New Jersey.
BOZEMAN, William T., Pfc., 34399996, Co. "A", Trenton, New Jersey.
DEAN, Harold M., Pfc., 20421023, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Quincy, Florida.
KAGLE, Raymond P., Pvt., 31038899, Co. "A", Mollenauer, Pennsylvania.
MARLATT, Chester L., Pfc., 35234743, Co. "B", New Comberstown, Ohio.
NICHOLSON, William C., Pvt., 34876642, Co. "L", Richton, Mississippi.
PRIMMAR, Donald B., Pvt., 19012384, Co. "B", Richmond, California.
ROTHERMUND, Earl R., Sgt., 33418204, Co. "F", Muser, Pennsylvania.

SCHERGER, Thomas M., Pfc., 20504069, Co. "A", Defiance, Ohio.
SPENCE, Elmer R., Pvt., 33342520, Co. "M", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
TRON, Paul J., 1st Lt., 0-1312364, Co. "A", Marion, Ohio.
WILKINS, Chester O., Pvt., 42081901, Co. "L", Frankford, Delaware.

1 OCTOBER 1944
CRAWFORD, W. H., Pvt., 20420609, Co. "I", Winter Garden, Florida.
GOULETTE, Cheshawgan H., Capt., 0-323851, AT Co., Phoenix, Arizona.
HANNAH, Walter W., Pvt., 33898989, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
LINDBERG, Charles T., Pvt., 37722681, Co. "I", Baltimore, Maryland.
LOPEMAN, Herbert T., Pvt., 35297739, Co. "I", Bellevue, Ohio.
MILLER, Wayne E., Pfc., 35606179, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.
SIEGEL, Martin, Pfc., 42043143, Co. "F", New York, New York.

3 OCTOBER 1944
GIANARIS, Louis N., Pvt., 33700056, Co. "C", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

4 OCTOBER 1944
DE SANTI, Michael, Pfc., 32371845, Co. "G", Albany, New York.
GITTLEN, Joseph J., Pvt., 33076398, Co. "D", Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.
KADRA, William J., Cpl., 31134158, Co. "D", Chicago, Illinois.

5 OCTOBER 1944
BEARD, Davis M., Pvt., 34876233, Co. "E", Tuplo, Mississippi.
DAILEY, Donald L., Pvt., 6580609, Co. "C", O'Neill, Nebraska.
EGLITZ, Arthur R., Pfc., 32793141, Co. "C", New York, New York.
LAMPKIN, Ernest A., Pfc., 33640229, Co. "C", Charles City, Virginia.
LEWIS, Clair E., Jr., Pfc., 33433952, Co. "E", Titusville, Pennsylvania.
LINKER, Paul E., Pfc., 34591119, Co. "G", Concord, North Carolina.
MATHIS, Reese C., Pfc., 34634602, Co. "H", Collins, Mississippi.
PETERS, Harry A., Pvt., 36901610, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
THOMPSON, Lloyd E., Pvt., 39184521, Med. Det., Vakiama, Washington.

6 OCTOBER 1944
BARICH, John A., S/Sgt., 36695728, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
BERARDI, Frank J., Pfc., 32641568, Co. "C", New York, New York.
COHEN, Ralph L., Pvt., 42037216, Co. "H", Bronx, New York.
LEIGH, Farris E., Pfc., 35702998, Co. "L", Eubank, Kentucky.
MERRIOW, David A., Pvt., 31340754, Co. "L", Cairo, Georgia.
MILLER, Dean A., Pfc., 31178866, Co. "L", Whitefield, New Hampshire.
MOLYNEAUX, John M., Pvt., 35589258, Med. Det., Akron, Ohio.
PAWLAK, Raymond J., Pvt., 36883806, Co. "L", Wayne, Michigan.
POTETTE, Elmer F., Pvt., 34920925, Co. "K", Franklin, Tennessee.
SHORT, Willard A., Pvt., 34679150, Co. "L", Greensboro, North Carolina.
SLOCKBOWER, Edward W., Pfc., 32918661, Co. "L", Hamburg, New Jersey.
TOMPKINS, Robert J., Pfc., 36414555, Co. "I", Lansing, Michigan.
WALDIE, Alexander S., Pfc., 31309859, Co. "L", Andover, Massachusetts.
WALLACE, John, Pfc., 39020957, Co. "I", Stratford, Oklahoma.
ZAPPILE, Charles C., Pvt., 33808693, Co. "L", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

7 OCTOBER 1944
BARTKOWIAK, Benedict M., Pfc., 35273754, Co. "G", Cleveland, Ohio.
FAIRCLOTH, James W., Pfc., 34801963, Co. "G", Prichard, Alabama.
FLYNN, Francis P., Pfc., 32939440, Co. "F", Auburn, New York.
HUSTON, Paul K., Pfc., 35593853, Co. "E", New Waterford, Ohio.
MARTINEZ, Patrocinio, Sgt., 39561652, Co. "L", Ocean Park, California.
MATOSKY, Stanley A., Pfc., 31415187, Co. "A", Northfield, Massachusetts.
MORSEHL, William, Jr., Pfc., 31033816, Co. "G", Everett, Massachusetts.
PATTON, ROBERT D., Jr., Pvt., 19188485, Co. "C", Sacramento, California.
PIPA, Louis, Pfc., 32887658, Co. "B", Brooklyn, New York.
TAYLOR, Marwood S., 1st Lt., 0-1313323, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
WHITE, Robert A., S/Sgt., 19119659, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Payette, Idaho.

8 OCTOBER 1944
DILL, George R., Jr., T/Sgt., 34396664, Co. "C", Yante, Alabama.

Commerce, Georgia.
ROBERTS, Buford J., Pfc., 34591957, Co. "K", Kangarrison, Thomas S., Pfc., 34830711, Co. "C", Naples, North Carolina.
SPENCER, Leslie V., Pfc., 19019297, Regt. Hqs. Co., Midway, Kentucky.
SYKES, Charlie W., Pfc., 34464646, Co. "A", Roper, North Carolina.
WILLIAMS, Ralph H., Sgt., 34671340, Co. "H",

9 OCTOBER 1944
GUNTER, Lawrence W., Pvt., 34897823, Co. "L", Bostic, North Carolina.
HALEK, Edward F., Pvt., 33385039, Co. "D", Baltimore, Maryland.
REIGHTER, William A., Pvt., 33705330, Co. "L", Jeannette, Pennsylvania.

10 OCTOBER 1944
McTEER, Cecil H., Sr., Pvt., 34848276, Co. "A", White Hall, South Carolina.

11 OCTOBER 1944
CURTIN, Clarence C., T/5, 6860624, 3rd Bn. Hqs. Co., Grand Island, Nebraska.

13 OCTOBER 1944
WOLVEN, Llewellyn R., Pvt., 32947587, Co. "C", Kingston, New York.

14 OCTOBER 1944
LEWIS, Robert E., S/Sgt., 36446020, Co. "I", Wagoner, Illinois.

15 OCTOBER 1944
BROWN, Truman L., Sgt., 17013453, AT Co., Russellville, Arkansas.

20 OCTOBER 1944
AUSBURNE, Robert L., Pvt., 33651779, Co. "A", Galex, Virginia.
GALLAGHER, Bernard J., Pfc., 13080650, 2nd Bn. Hqs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
KLINE, Leon W., Jr., Pvt., 32447293, Med. Det., Milford, New Jersey.
LIFSCHITZ, Samuel, Pfc., 42037242, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
NELSON, Chris H., Pvt., 37477352, Co. "A", Knox, Nebraska.
SNECKENBERGER, Robert J., Sgt., 33435652, Co. "G", New Castle, Pennsylvania.
WILSON, Robert, Pfc., 34916682, Co. "E", Dadeville, Alabama.

21 OCTOBER 1944
BOWMAN, Glenn M., Pfc., 39922748, Co. "E", Sterling, Idaho.
BURNES, Edward J., Pfc., 31048877, Co. "B", Clinton, Connecticut.
FORESTAL, Bernard J., Pvt., 36841014, Co. "E", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
FULBRIGHT, Golden J., Pvt., 38598044, Co. "L", Walderburg, Arkansas.
HERBIN, Harry J., Pfc., 36546965, Co. "E", Saginaw, Michigan.
HOLCOMB, Wesley L., Pvt., 33903694, Co. "I", Joppa, Maryland.
MCLENDON, Clarence D., Pfc., 34812522, Co. "E", Jasper, Alabama.
MEDINA, Alfred M., Pvt., 38165451, Co. "C", Monero, New Mexico.
ROMANO, Anthony J., Pvt., 32947924, Co. "I", Rome, New York.
WILKINSON, Earl, Pfc., 34871123, Co. "G", New Orleans, Louisiana.

22 OCTOBER 1944
ALBRITTON, Joe C., 1st Lt., 0-1030332, Co. "B", Farmerville, Louisiana.
BIRD, George, Pvt., 33706230, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
BRENGEL, James F., Pfc., 32996765, Co. "M", Seacliffe, New York.
CARR, Andrew J., Pfc., 34140878, Co. "D", McDonald, Tennessee.
EDWARDS, John, Pvt., 33435836, 1st Bn. Hqs. Co., Newcastle, Pennsylvania.
FOX, Charles E., Pfc., 34883883, Co. "D", Byington, Tennessee.
LEVIN, Percy, Pvt., 42022520, Co. "K", Niagara Falls, Niagara, New York.
MARTIN, Marvin H., Pfc., 33649054, Co. "D", Martinsville, Virginia.
MASON, John F., Pfc., 31342965, Co. "D", Meriden, Connecticut.
NELLINGER, Ernest, Pfc., 35097464, Co. "A", Bloomington, Indiana.
OVERHOLT, James L., Pvt., 35924569, Co. "I", Barberton, Ohio.
REMICK, William C., Pfc., 31226804, Co. "K", Roxbury, Massachusetts.
SHIEPKO, Anthony T., Pfc., 32621973, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
YOUNG, Donald L., S/Sgt., 36457373, Co. "K", Marquette, Michigan.

23 OCTOBER 1944
FREDELL, William L., Pvt., 33432893, Co. "E", Kane, Pennsylvania.
MUTHER, Donald, Pvt., 31428505, Co. "I", Newton, Massachusetts.

24 OCTOBER 1944
CHAMPAGNE, Leon J., Pvt., 31428645, Co. "I", Springfield, Massachusetts.
REWERS, Joseph F., Pfc., 33064635, Co. "L", Baltimore, Maryland.

25 OCTOBER 1944

ATKINS, Charles L., Pvt., 42033916, Co. "I", Queens, New York.
 FERINA, Patrick F., Pfc., 42013117, Co. "I", Hoboken, New Jersey.
 GALLO, Nicholas R., Pfc., 32910900, Co. "I", Trenton, New Jersey.
 HUSING, John C., 1st Lt., 0-376627, AT Co., Lynbrook, New Jersey.
 LINDLEY, James A., Pfc., 35706284, Co. "F", Paoli, Indiana.
 MITCHELL, Vana F., Pvt., 35775339, Co. "A", Rhodell, West Virginia.
 ORTIZ, Michael J., Pfc., 39265749, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Huntington Park, California.
 RODKEY, George L., T/5, 33073566, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Osterberg, Pennsylvania.
 SCHLAANSTINE, Frederick R., S/Sgt., 33797473, Co. "I", Kennet Square, Pennsylvania.
 WHITEKNACT, George N., Pvt., 36694942, Co. "L", Chicago, Illinois.
 YUENGER, George R., Pfc., 35918440, Co. "I", Youngstown, Ohio.

26 OCTOBER 1944

BARTLETT, Edward O., Pvt., 36590835, Co. "B", Wyandotte, Michigan.
 CRAWFORD, George W., T/Sgt., 36197849, Co. "F", Hillsdale, Michigan.
 DE MEGLIO, Jerry A., Pfc., 32822470, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
 EHRLICH, Howard N., Pfc., 12041603, Co. "E", New York, New York.
 GILREATH, James A., Pvt., 35924806, Co. "B", Dent, Ohio.
 KALMANOVITZ, Morris, S/Sgt., 32655070, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
 SHEEHAN, John J., Pvt., 42033573, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
 STRUBER, Isaac, Sgt., 32046182, Co. "L", Kingston, New York.

27 OCTOBER 1944

BIER, Arthur A., Pvt., 12014145, Co. "A", Brooklyn, New York.
 DETWILER, Richard E., Pvt., 32959181, Co. "F", Riverside, New Jersey.
 LUCAS, Ecklor C., T/5, 37064386, Co. "B", Gentry, Arkansas.
 SAMUELS, John H., Pvt., 35261794, Co. "C", Eaton, Ohio.
 WILSON, Bassy M., Pfc., 34893585, Co. "I", Canton, North Carolina.

28 OCTOBER 1944

GALLARDO, Macario J., Pvt., 38578217, Co. "L", El Paso, Texas.
 GOSS, Floyd E., Pvt., 35899938, Co. "B", Richmond, Indiana.
 JUDGE, SAMUEL, Pvt., 31427391, Co. "A", Brockton, Massachusetts.
 KAY, Walker H., S/Sgt., 7006437, Co. "I", Hartwell, Georgia.
 TETREAULT, Albert J., 2nd Lt., 0-2155232, BP, Meriden, Connecticut.

29 OCTOBER 1944

CESSNA, Dale E., Sgt., 36738447, Co. "G", Sumner, Illinois.
 FRALEY, Lloyd J., Pvt., 39173990, Co. "L", Jackson, Kentucky.
 GILBERTSON, Richard A., Pfc., 39709939, Co. "G", Ventura, California.
 GOLLADAY, Floyd W., Pfc., 39213481, Co. "G", Petaluma, California.
 HYDE, Edward L., Pfc., 36784414, Co. "G", Chicago, Illinois.
 MCCLURG, Albert, Pvt., 31149194, Med. Det., Pawtucket, Rhode Island.
 MULLER, Roy G., Pvt., 33140049, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
 RUGEN, Harold P., Pfc., 42032557, Co. "I", Springfield, New York.

30 OCTOBER 1944

BAMBURAK, Joseph W., Pfc., 36041765, Co. "I", Chicago, Illinois.
 CARDILLO, Carmelo, Pvt., 32649851, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 LUNETTA, Salvatore J., Pfc., 31005514, Co. "E", Fitchburg, Massachusetts.
 MABUCE, Eddie L., Pfc., 36480765, Co. "H", Chester, Illinois.
 MARIMONE, John, Pfc., 35763337, Co. "E", Newton Falls, Ohio.
 MCFARLAND, Beryl E., Sgt., 35235099, Co. "E", Akron, Ohio.
 SELTENRIGHT, John R., Pfc., 35091009, Co. "E", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 WHITLEY, Adam, Pvt., 35774177, Co. "L", Hendricks, Kentucky.

31 OCTOBER 1944

BISHOP, Joseph L., Pvt., 31381037, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Danielson, Connecticut.
 DRUYOS, James, Pvt., 33640234, Co. "B", Bowers Hill, Virginia.
 GRANDO, George A., Sgt., 39212214, Co. "L", Vadar, Washington.
 HOEY, Frederick E., Pfc., 32205240, Co. "L", Delanco, New Jersey.
 LARSUD, Orrin L., Pvt., 37587109, Co. "E", Prosper, Minnesota.
 McDERMOTT, Edward J., Sgt., 13007550, Co. "L", Edwardsville, Pennsylvania.
 MILLER, Frank C., Pfc., 36737105, 2nd Bn. Hqrs.

Co., Lombard, Illinois.
 O'BRIEN, Stephen B., Pfc., 36682299, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
 PEARO, Richard J., Pvt., 32939467, Co. "E", Syracuse, New York.
 PRYOR, Muriel G., Pfc., 34446090, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rossville, Georgia.
 WEINGARDEN, John R., Sgt., 32855386, Co. "A", Albany, New York.

1 NOVEMBER 1944

ANDREWS, Arthur C., Pfc., 31426848, Co. "E", Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.
 CALDERELLA, Anthony V., Pvt., 32811406, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rockville Center, New York.
 COOK, Roy E., Capt., 0-128553, Co. "C", Bakersfield, California.
 EDWARDS, Nelson C., S/Sgt., 33535527, Co. "E", Danville, Virginia.
 GUTHRIE, Willie D., Pvt., 34796524, Co. "C", Jacksonville, Florida.
 SIMPSON, Leonard P., Pfc., 33555632, Co. "C", Free-land, Maryland.

2 NOVEMBER 1944

BAKSANSKAS, Victor, Pfc., 33403017, Co. "A", Wagonah, Pennsylvania.
 BONNER, Andrew L., Jr., Pfc., 34085376, Co. "A", Toxey, Alabama.
 GALLAGHER, Robert B., Pvt., 39215507, Co. "L", Butte, Montana.
 HAGAN, James R., Pfc., 42021595, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
 LEITHAUSER, Arthur, Pvt., 42103631, Co. "L", Nutley, New Jersey.
 MAY, Woodrow, Pfc., 35772181, Co. "L", Edgarton, West Virginia.

3 NOVEMBER 1944

ADAMS, Paul E., Pfc., 33571151, Co. "G", Boswell, Pennsylvania.
 ANSON, Charles K., Jr., Cpl., 32917049, Co. "A", Plainfield, New Jersey.
 BABBS, Charles E., Pvt., 35878504, Co. "A", Buffalo, New York.
 BABER, John M., Pvt., 35776923, Co. "C", Charleston, New Jersey.
 ELDRIDGE, Robert J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1310422, Co. "H", Kalamazoo, Michigan.
 FLICK, Russell W., S/Sgt., 35650428, Co. "A", Oak Hill, West Virginia.
 GILL, Michael P., Pfc., 39113064, Co. "B", San Francisco, California.
 GLADE, Keith E., Pvt., 37681710, Co. "B", Fontanelle, Iowa.
 GUTHRIE, Willie D., Pvt., 34796524, Co. "C", South Jacksonville, Florida.
 HATAWAY, Willie B., Pvt., 34926921, Co. "F", Clinton, Mississippi.
 JENNINGS, Ralph W., Pvt., 39247579, Co. "I", Bakersfield, California.
 JOHNSON, William O., Pvt., 35807744, Co. "A", East Bernstadt, Kentucky.
 KESSLER, Jerome D., Pfc., 33734273, Co. "D", Baltimore, Maryland.
 KLASSES, Harold R., Pfc., 39716757, Co. "I", Shafter, California.
 LORD, Lionel B., Pvt., 37020385, Med. Det., Saint Paul, Minnesota.
 MADDIGAN, James P., Pfc., 33670559, Co. "D", West Homestead, Pennsylvania.
 MARTINEZ, Felipe C., Pfc., 38459041, Co. "F", Gonzales, Texas.
 MOORE, Kenneth O., Pvt., 35737874, Co. "I", Portsmouth, Ohio.
 PELTON, Robert C., Pfc., 31428716, Co. "I", Needham, Massachusetts.
 VERNON, Glenn O., Pfc., 37483550, Co. "C", Council Bluffs, Iowa.

4 NOVEMBER 1944

BEEMER, Robert J., S/Sgt., 32569790, Co. "G", Newton, New Jersey.
 BELLETINE, Tony, Pfc., 32877342, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
 BOATWRIGHT, Johnnie W., Jr., Pfc., 34794746, Co. "G", Tampa, Florida.
 BOKEDON, George, Jr., Pfc., 33692015, Co. "E", Bradock, Pennsylvania.
 FIDLER, Eugene F., Pvt., 36827063, Co. "G", Sturgeon, Wisconsin.
 HAMM, Clayton E., Pvt., 31352602, Co. "G", Millinocket, Maine.
 JONES, Wilson A., Pvt., 34925558, Co. "E", Tulsa, Oklahoma.
 KATZ, Daniel, Pfc., 32994987, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
 KING, Alvin F., Pfc., 34496200, Co. "E", Toone, Tennessee.
 McCORMICK, Robert D., S/Sgt., 35032463, Co. "E", Huntsville, Ohio.
 MITCHELL, Miles M., Pvt., 34922508, Co. "I", Jonesboro, Tennessee.
 PAWLAK, Edward J., Pvt., 36107308, Co. "A", Richmond, Michigan.
 POLLACK, Samuel, Pvt., 42032266, Co. "D", Brooklyn, New York.
 SANTILLO, Joseph J., Pfc., 42018855, Co. "K", Elizabeth, New Jersey.
 WHITELEY, William C., Jr., Cpl., 34654736, Co. "B", Durham, North Carolina.
 WOOLUMS, Robert W., Pvt., 35228491, Co. "G", Columbus, Ohio.

5 NOVEMBER 1944

LAVOIE, Roland J., Pvt., 31447337, Co. "D", Providence, Rhode Island.

6 NOVEMBER 1944

GRANT, Daniel J., Pfc., 31353171, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 HOLTON, William C., Jr., Sgt., 33595384, Co. "I", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 PALMER, Mack L., Pfc., 34530318, Co. "A", Dinsmore, Florida.

7 NOVEMBER 1944

CLARK, Winnie W., Pvt., 34988848, Co. "C", Mize, Mississippi.
 DEESE, Lee L., Pvt., 34974073, Co. "C", Merile, Alabama.

8 NOVEMBER 1944

AARON, Juland A., Pfc., 35893000, Co. "I", Aaron, Kentucky.

9 NOVEMBER 1944

ANDREWS, Arthur C., Pfc., 31426848, Co. "E", Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts.

10 NOVEMBER 1944

SMOCK, Burdet W., S/Sgt., 37040021, Co. Co., Garber, Iowa.

11 NOVEMBER 1944

COLLINS, Gordon A., Sgt., 31321476, Co. "D", Farmington, Maine.

13 NOVEMBER 1944

REED, Cecil R., Pvt., 34884673, Co. "I", Woodbury, Tennessee.

20 NOVEMBER 1944

BARYS, Stanley P., S/Sgt., 31261831, Co. "M", Worcester, Massachusetts.
 BIBINSKI, Anthony J., Pfc., 32215507, Co. "G", Camden, New Jersey.
 BLAIR, Leonard O., Sgt., 35702186, Co. "K", Louisville, Kentucky.
 CARROLL, James E., T/5, 34883835, Med. Det., Lynn, Massachusetts.
 CHAMBERLAIN, Willard, Pfc., 35897951, Co. "G", Rochester, Indiana.
 COLEMAN, Forrest H., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-282409, Co. "M", Laurens, South Carolina.
 CRAWFORD, Richard E., S/Sgt., 6959092, Co. "C", Timpson, Texas.
 CREASY, Stewart W., Sgt., 33441925, Co. "C", Charlottesville, Virginia.
 DERR, Howard H., Pfc., 39382987, Med. Det., Odesse, Washington.
 EVANOSKY, Getty, Pfc., 33461897, Co. "C", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
 FENSTERMACHER, Irvin O., Pvt., 33873926, Co. "L", Shamolin, Pennsylvania.
 FOX, Alex, Pvt., 39621733, Co. "L", Billings, Montana.
 FECICZ, Nicholas A., Pfc., 33423323, Co. "K", Cannonburg, Pennsylvania.
 HARNEY, Donald A., Pfc., 36973316, Co. "G", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 HONEYBELL, James H., Pfc., 32939484, Co. "F", Watertown, New York.
 JACKSON, Arthur W., Pfc., 34854522, Co. "F", Wilmington, North Carolina.
 LEMMERT, Ernest E., Pfc., 37459223, Co. "G", Seneca, Nebraska.
 MATTINGLY, Sylvester A., S/Sgt., 35101283, Co. "G", Owensboro, Kentucky.
 MILLER, Albert L., Jr., Sgt., 35538404, Co. "L", Cleveland, Ohio.
 MUCHMORE, Raymond P., 2nd Lt., 0-1055922, Co. "D", Redwood City, California.
 NATIONS, Elmer D., T/5, 38506721, Med. Det., Hope, Arkansas.
 NUTTER, Jack C., Pfc., 35847679, Co. "E", Goketon, West Virginia.
 PHILLIPS, Murray S., Jr., Pvt., 35298371, Co. "H", Logan, Ohio.
 RASMUSSEN, Donald W., Pvt., 39343173, Co. "H", Portland, Oregon.
 REINERTSON, Stanley T., Pvt., 37585412, Co. "D", Tacoma, Washington.
 SCHUBERT, Otto J., Pfc., 33139657, Co. "M", Pennington, New Jersey.
 SNIDER, Wilburn S., Pvt., 39723176, Co. "F", Bakersfield, California.
 SOMMA, Albert C., Pfc., 32338404, Co. "B", South Ozone Park, New York.
 STILES, Leslie E., 1st Lt., 0-411896, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chestnut Hill, Connecticut.
 VANBERG, Alvin B., Pfc., 36288967, Co. "L", Ellsworth, Wisconsin.
 WILSON, Thomas S., Pvt., 31370399, Co. "M", Charlestown, Massachusetts.

21 NOVEMBER 1944

ADELSTEIN, Harold S., Pvt., 36453744, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., South Haven, Michigan.
 BARDONI, Julius J., Pvt., 16010557, Co. "B", Wyan-dotte, Michigan.
 CLARK, Charles W., Pvt., 35241952, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Fort Wayne, Indiana.
 GARZIA, Armand A., Pfc., 32939462, Co. "F", Syracuse, New York.
 KRESSAL, Donald H., C., Pfc., 35319873, Co. "E", Cleveland, Ohio.
 LOGUE, James F., Cpl., 33591021, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., New York, New York.
 OLDHAM, Alderson G., Pfc., 36649107, Co. "A", Shobonier, Illinois.
 ROBERTSON, Lemuel C., Sr., Pfc., 34931250, Co. "I", Kershaw, South Carolina.

22 NOVEMBER 1944

DEVINE, John H., Pfc., 20214665, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
GREENE, John J., 1st Lt., 0-1306268, Co. "L", New York, New York.
HERTZEN, Harold G., Pfc., 32537861, Co. "E", Bronx, New York.
JOHNS, Marvin J., Pfc., 36837834, Co. "C", Stanley, Wisconsin.
KERSKI, Walter J., Pfc., 31337973, Regt. Hqrs. Co., Nantuxet, Connecticut.
LIMPP, Albert J., Pfc., 39215552, Co. "A", Ratsil, Washington.
MONKIEWICZ, Raymond J., Pfc., 33792506, Co. "E", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
SMITH, Gilbert L., Pfc., 39215855, Co. "E", Seattle, Washington.
VIPPERMAN, James L., Pvt., 34678098, Co. "E", Mebane, North Carolina.

23 NOVEMBER 1944

HESSEY, Benjamin F., Pvt., 33753017, Regt. Hqrs. Co., Washington, District of Columbia.
KEY, Ralph, S/Sgt., 34805336, Co. "I", Carbon Hill, Alabama.
OCHS, Roy W., Pfc., 36767667, Co. "I", Okawville, Illinois.
RIGNEY, Antheil M., T/5, 35093277, Co. "I", New Castle, Indiana.
SOLEY, William L., Pvt., 37639249, Co. "L", Saint Louis, Missouri.
STEFER, Emil, Jr., Pfc., 33804139, Co. "K", Croyden, Pennsylvania.
STEWART, Connie B., S/Sgt., 35796803, Regt. Hqrs. Co., Lexington, Kentucky.
WALKER, Herbert L., Pfc., 34581497, Co. "I", Langdale, Alabama.

24 NOVEMBER 1944

BLAKE, Tommie S., Pvt., 38671153, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Rockdale, Texas.
HERRING, Francis M., 1st Sgt., 20418561, Co. "A", Climax, Georgia.
MERLINO, Samuel, Pfc., 32559261, Co. "A", Newark, New Jersey.
TRACY, Lawrence J., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-1318488, Co. "A", Anderson, Indiana.

29 NOVEMBER 1944

BUTTS, Willis E., Pfc., 38520214, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jackson, Mississippi.
VAN CLEAVE, John T., Pfc., 6912610, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.

30 NOVEMBER 1944

LEE, Alvin J., Pvt., 37592644, Co. "E", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

1 DECEMBER 1944

CARLSON, Dale, Pvt., 39922545, Co. "E", Charleston, Utah.
CRUZ, Rodolfo G., Pvt., 35736707, Co. "E", Adrian, Michigan.
FOUSSARD, Gaston J., Pvt., 37591205, Co. "E", St. John, North Dakota.
HUFF, Jack B., Pvt., 37363048, Co. "E", Jennings, Kansas.
JOHNSON, Calvert, Pfc., 33885447, Co. "G", St. Lynchburg, Virginia.
KELLY, John J., Sgt., 39140751, Co. "F", San Francisco, California.
LEE, Ellis N., Pfc., 34892018, Co. "F", Kannapolis, North Carolina.
LOMBARDO, Clifford E., Pvt., 42102365, Co. "F", Livingston, New Jersey.
YOUNG, Carl W., Pfc., 38599619, Co. "C", Quitman, Arkansas.

2 DECEMBER 1944

CHERNEY, Robert H., 1st Lt., 0-447522, Co. "E", Oswego, Oregon.

9 DECEMBER 1944

BOYER, Walter L., Pfc., 3387316, Co. "E", Shomokin, Pennsylvania.

11 DECEMBER 1944

FISHUN, Andrew, Pfc., 31338094, Co. "F", Seymour, Connecticut.

20 DECEMBER 1944

The "Colmar Pocket" Campaign

24 DECEMBER 1944

THURMOND, John E., Sr., S/Sgt., 38536909, Co. "B", Dallas, Texas.

26 DECEMBER 1944

O'LEARY, Edward G., Pvt., 39582962, Co. "L", Los Angeles, California.

28 DECEMBER 1944

ADAMS, Patrick H., 2nd Lt., 0-1299976, Co. "I", Richmond, Virginia.
HITE, John E., Pvt., 33702976, AT Co., Munthall, Pennsylvania.
OBERNDORF, Leo G., Capt., 0-307995, Co. "A", Minneapolis, Minnesota.

31 DECEMBER 1944

KARLUK, Alex M., 1st Lt., 0-1288236, Co. "M", Scranton, Pennsylvania.
REID, Frank A., Pvt., 32277805, Co. "M", Patterson, New Jersey.

1 JANUARY 1945

PUGLIA, Carlo, Pfc., 31308395, Co. "I", Somerville, Massachusetts.

2 JANUARY 1945

GIBSON, Carl V., Pvt., 35778564, Co. "B", Bluefield, Massachusetts.
JONES, Robert F., Pfc., 39474017, Co. "B", Klaber, Washington.
RIGG, Bennis E., S/Sgt., 35808664, Co. "L", Evansville, Indiana.

4 JANUARY 1945

MARTINI, Reno A., Pfc., 36763229, Co. "B", Staunton, Illinois.

5 JANUARY 1945

KIMMER, Talmadge J., Pfc., 34893590, Co. "I", Gloucester, North Carolina.
PROFFIT, Evan W., Pfc., 36975855, Co. "B", Dearborn, Michigan.

6 JANUARY 1945

JABLONOWSKI, Casimar, Pfc., 35920277, Co. "I", Brooklyn Village, Ohio.
TAMBURELLI, Anthony S., Pfc., 37639229, Co. "I", St. Louis, Missouri.

8 JANUARY 1945

GOODWIN, Harold H., Pfc., 37683263, Co. "F", Florida, Iowa.
PARKER, Herbert D., Pfc., 34801868, Co. "F", Pyriton, Alabama.

9 JANUARY 1945

STILES, Arthur R., Pfc., 32843176, Cn. Co., Buffalo, New York.

14 JANUARY 1945

DENKO, Emil E., Pvt., 33810892, Co. "A", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
PARTIN, George W., S/Sgt., 35802860, Co. "A", Jellico, Tennessee.

15 JANUARY 1945

WOLAVER, David A., Pfc., 36463151, Co. "H", Ann Arbor, Michigan.

16 JANUARY 1945

BROWN, Richard S., 2nd Lt., 0-2055280, BP, Westminster, Maryland.
FINCH, Ned, T/Sgt., 39467001, Co. "L", Fortuna, William B., Pfc., 42100672, Co. "L", Sumner, New Jersey.
HARTMAN, William C., Sgt., 38393943, Co. "I", Forgan, Oklahoma.
MCCOY, Walter E., S/Sgt., 32307157, Co. "L", Newark, New Jersey.
RAINS, Onis L., Sgt., 35719493, Co. "L", Rosine, Kentucky.
UNGAR, Joseph, Pfc., 12019615, Co. "L", New York, New York.

17 JANUARY 1945

DEATHERAGE, Virgil V., Cpl., 38018869, Co. "C", Norman, Oklahoma.
KERN, Jerome J., Pfc., 36593120, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
PINTO, Joseph, Pfc., 32958508, Co. "I", Camden, New Jersey.

18 JANUARY 1945

GROSS, Joseph J., 2nd Lt., 0-1314775, Co. "K", Kearny, New Jersey.

22 JANUARY 1945

BELLAVIGNA, John, Pfc., 32880670, Co. "M", New York, New York.
JANOSKY, Isaac, Pfc., 33746527, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
JEANES, Reuben J. W., T/4, 17013464, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Nashville, Arkansas.
SHANNON, William A., Pfc., 33415429, Co. "K", New Florence, Pennsylvania.
WHITE, William O., S/Sgt., 33182768, Co. "K", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

23 JANUARY 1945

ALBUS, Richard E., Pfc., 38606495, Co. "E", Munday, Texas.
BING, Bradford L., Pfc., 38545507, Co. "G", Oakwood, Texas.
CATTS, William L., Pfc., 42080769, Co. "E", Wilmington, Delaware.
COLWELL, Robert B., Pvt., 38697287, Co. "A", Purcell, Oklahoma.
DI MURA, Phillip, Pfc., 32944119, Co. "E", Albany, New York.
FLYNN, Frank J., Pfc., 32892613, Med. Det., New York, New York.
FRAME, John, Pfc., 32076682, Co. "C", Newark, Delaware.
GILLIAND, Henry O., Pfc., 34918798, Co. "D", Bexar, Alabama.
GURSKI, Joseph A., Pfc., 33666895, Co. "G", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
HAYS, Beverly G., Capt., 0-410206, Co. "C", Visalia, California.
HEINRICH, Gilbert J., Pfc., 16005333, Med. Det., Kenosha, Wisconsin.
KREFT, Lester F., Pfc., 37683982, Co. "K", Lytton, Iowa.
LA BARE, Donald H., Pfc., 31392379, Co. "G", Warren, Massachusetts.

LONG, Austin M., Pfc., 34922306, Co. "G", Tazewell, Tennessee.
MARCOTTE, Arthur R., Pfc., 31320823, Co. "G", Biddeford, Maine.
MITCHELL, Donald B., Pfc., 31465126, Co. "G", South Portland, Maine.
MOEGELIN, William M., 2nd Lt., 0-1325451, Co. "C", Brooklyn, New York.
MONTGOMERY, Alex, Pfc., 37362889, Co. "K", Monte Vista, Colorado.
MOONEY, Wayne D., Pfc., 37593612, Co. "G", Montevideo, Minnesota.
NELSEN, Eric, Pvt., 36715761, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
RORER, David P., Jr., Pfc., 33661984, Co. "G", Lynchburg, Virginia.
SOLVER, Richard A., Pvt., 39215095, Co. "A", Edmonds, Washington.
THOMAS, Clifton C., Pfc., 20731151, Co. "B", Keanet, Missouri.
THOMPSON, John W., Pfc., 32777475, Co. "I", Clifton, New Jersey.
WAGENER, Jewel E., Pfc., 35574029, Co. "G", Indianapolis, Indiana.
WIEDE, Walter G., Sgt., 31005390, Co. "G", Allerton, Massachusetts.

24 JANUARY 1945

BRINKEY, Harry J., Pfc., 36555368, Co. "E", Hazel Park, Michigan.
GARVEY, William J., Pfc., 32910739, Co. "D", New Bedford, Massachusetts.
HALL, Sterling B. G., Pfc., 33836802, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Allentown, Pennsylvania.
HAYES, Clayton J., Pvt., 39716885, Co. "K", Wilmington, California.
KREIN, Ludwig O., Pfc., 37487019, Co. "I", Hot Springs, South Dakota.
MCBRIDE, John T., T/5, 36462641, Co. "E", Battle Creek, Michigan.
SCHULTZ, Ernest C., Sgt., 38809557, Co. "E", Butternut, Wisconsin.
SCHWEITZER, Harold A., Pfc., 42024856, Co. "G", Buffalo, New York.
SILBERSTEIN, Norman, Pfc., 32171869, Co. "E", Brooklyn, New York.
ZAWACKI, Joseph J., Pvt., 36905135, Co. "I", Oglesby, Illinois.

25 JANUARY 1945

ADKINS, Clyde J., Pfc., 34509426, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Kingsport, Tennessee.
ALLISON, George G., T/Sgt., 39412810, Co. "E", Stockton, California.
BREON, Parse H., Pvt., 33761973, Co. "C", Loganton, Pennsylvania.
CAMP, Byron G., Jr., Pfc., 31349691, Co. "G", Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
DIAZ, Benny C., Pfc., 38351077, Co. "E", Galap, New Mexico.
DI FILIPPO, Carmen, Pfc., 36682995, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
FARWELL, Irving A., Pfc., 31465121, Co. "E", Portland, Maine.
FLEMING, Charles W., Pvt., 33873254, Co. "G", Columbia, Pennsylvania.
FORKEY, John H., S/Sgt., 31253565, Co. "F", East Arlington, Vermont.
FULTON, Robert R., Pfc., 39714929, Co. "L", Long Beach, California.
HEALY, Milton H., Pfc., 31370976, Co. "K", Fall River, Massachusetts.
HILAND, Vincent E., Pfc., 42117575, Co. "E", Peekskill, New York.
HURD, Donald W., Pfc., 32779983, Co. "E", Ganer, New York.
IRON, Alvin J., Pfc., 38663317, Co. "F", Washita, Arkansas.
KEARNEY, Aloysius E., T/5, 33606056, Co. "L", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.
KILLEN, William L., Pfc., 35899419, Co. "E", Goshen, Indiana.
KUTTIN, Anton, Jr., Pfc., 36902398, Co. "G", New Douglas, Illinois.
LUDLAM, Stephen C., Pfc., 42081753, Co. "E", Stone Harbor, New Jersey.
MEDLIN, William A., Pfc., 38512634, Co. "F", Star City, Arkansas.
SMITHERMAN, Robert W., 1st Lt., 0-1317348, Co. "G", Calera, Alabama.
TEAGUE, Emmett R., Pfc., 38664118, Co. "E", Dierks, Arkansas.
THOMAS, Doyle H., Pfc., 34830364, Co. "K", Easton, Georgia.
TURPIN, Theodore E., Pvt., 35812311, Co. "F", Linton, Indiana.

26 JANUARY 1945

DE BENEY, Richard, Pvt., 36755618, Co. "C", Chicago, Illinois.
HOWARD, Wayne, Pfc., 39723237, Co. "I", Bakersfield, California.
KEENER, William H., S/Sgt., 34776282, Co. "C", Iron Station, North Carolina.
KING, Ray J., Pfc., 39254805, Med. Det., Los Angeles, California.
PETROPOLIS, Stanley, 2nd Lt., 0-528696, BP, East Chicago, Indiana.
SHULL, Homer P., Pfc., 34849255, Co. "I", West Columbia, South Carolina.

27 JANUARY 1945

FEELY, Carl W., Pfc., 36482532, Co. "G", Pekin, Illinois.
HOICK, John, Pfc., 31406638, Co. "M", Kingsville, Texas.
MOYNIHAN, Francis D., Pfc., 39127796, Med. Det., San Francisco, California.

SVALINA, John M., Pvt., 36909666, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.
WILLIAMS, William V., Pvt., 36909504, Co. "A", Piper City, Illinois.

29 JANUARY 1945

HUSSON, John E., Pfc., 42017492, Co. "I", Garwood, New Jersey.
MITCHUM, Clarence, Pfc., 34849112, Co. "L", Sumter, South Carolina.
NELSON, Donald E., Pvt., 36909726, Co. "L", Tampico, Illinois.
SCHOENFELD, Melvin E., S/Sgt., 35010383, Cn. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
YERARDI, Salvatore C., Pfc., 20101437, Co. "K", West Newton, Massachusetts.

30 JANUARY 1945

BAKER, George J., Pvt., 37744406, Co. "C", Kansas City, Missouri.
BALE, Joseph L., Pfc., 6398737, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Detroit, Michigan.
CASTELLAW, Aaron S., T/Sgt., 6398737, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Jones, Tennessee.
CLARK, George W., Pfc., 35809352, Co. "G", Detroit, Michigan.
CONLEY, Ed., Pvt., 35660262, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Logan, West Virginia.
FANNING, Thomas F., Pfc., 32786952, Co. "L", Bronx, New York.
GIFFORD, Alwyn R., Pvt., 31428560, Co. "H", New Bedford, Massachusetts.
HENBEST, Henry G., Pvt., 37646027, Co. "F", Joplin, Missouri.
KING, William C., Pfc., 32283918, Co. "G", Olean, New York.
LAZAR, Philip, Pvt., 36910099, Co. "F", Chicago, Illinois.
LEININGER, Milton M., Pvt., 35906904, Co. "F", Fort Wayne, Indiana.
MIELE, John J., Pfc., 42059315, Co. "G", Brooklyn, New York.
MORRISON, Archie J., Pvt., 36472527, Co. "C", Uby, Michigan.
PARIMUHA, John, Pfc., 33410534, Co. "F", Sharon, Pennsylvania.
PERRY, Carl E., Pfc., 37621613, Co. "G", Poplar Bluff, Missouri.
PONTICELLI, Glen P., Pvt., 39422374, Co. "F", Sacramento, California.
SALMON, Thomas J., Pvt., 36910035, Co. "F", Spring Valley, Illinois.
STRANGE, Robert E., Pvt., 39423611, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Oakland, California.
WEAVER, Robert E., Sgt., 36711850, Co. "B", Lexington, Illinois.
ZULIO, Michael A., Pvt., 36909906, Co. "A", Kankakee, Illinois.

31 JANUARY 1945

BOUMAN, Paul D., S/Sgt., 35577930, Co. "E", Huntington, Indiana.
CLARK, Charles L., Pfc., 39214752, Co. "E", Tacoma, Washington.
DRONEY, John, Pfc., 34976545, Co. "E", Sanford, Florida.
HESKITT, Floyd L., Jr., Sgt., 35057772, Co. "E", Elyria, Ohio.
LIMMER, Robert A., Sgt., 33556594, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Baltimore, Maryland.
LYNCH, Nicholas A., 1st Sgt., 6875812, Co. "F", Jamaica, New York.
MASCALI, Frank, Pfc., 32820651, Co. "F", New York, New York.
POMPONIO, Mario, Pvt., 42097185, Co. "E", Fairport, New York.

1 FEBRUARY 1945

GUTIERREZ, Jose, Pfc., 38286905, Co. "H", Saginaw, Michigan.
JACKSON, Bill E., Pvt., 3576789, Co. "A", Pineville, West Virginia.
MUHAR, Andrew J., Pfc., 36835150, Co. "K", West Allis, Wisconsin.
NELSEN, Fred P., Pvt., 36909915, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Chicago, Illinois.

3 FEBRUARY 1945

BRODERICK, Raymond J., Pfc., 33478713, Co. "G", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DAVIS, Raymond M., Jr., Pfc., 34830462, Co. "L", Loganville, Georgia.
DI BARTOLOMEO, Sebastian R., Pfc., 31428608, Co. "F", Hiverhill, Massachusetts.
DILLEY, Orville L., 1st Lt., 0-1299861, Co. "L", Kilgore, Texas.
FLETCHER, Adrian S., Pvt., 36902399, Co. "C", Topeka, Illinois.
GROSS, Peter, Pfc., 32913805, Co. "K", Jersey City, New Jersey.
HANNA, Brauged L., Pfc., 36624494, Co. "K", Kinmundy, Illinois.
HEDEN, Harold G., Pfc., 39116614, Co. "M", San Francisco, California.
HOWARD, Jobie V., Pvt., 35081581, Co. "G", Berry, Kentucky.
KIMBLE, Everett J., Pfc., 120151110, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hamburg, New Jersey.
KIZIRIAN, Archie T., Pvt., 39423989, Co. "K", Oakland, California.
KIWIATKOWSKI, Dominie D., Pvt., 35849005, Co. "G", Toledo, Ohio.
LOCKWOOD, Paul R., Pvt., 36909880, Co. "K", Kankakee, Illinois.
MCDONALD, Vernon W., Pfc., 34795783, Co. "K", Lake Alfred, Florida.

MILLER, Hughes E., Cpl., 34088884, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Dawsonville, Georgia.
MITCHELL, Donald M., Pvt., 34504946, Co. "L", Knoxville, Tennessee.
MOORE, Ralph W., Pfc., 36171562, Co. "M", Spruce, Michigan.
MYLEK, Frank J., Pfc., 35229466, Co. "K", Toledo, Ohio.
NANCE, Robert D., Pfc., 37477679, Co. "K", Fairbury, Nebraska.
PINARD, Raymond F., Pfc., 31267976, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Co.
POTTS, Gilbert E., Pfc., 31125946, Co. "E", East Northfield, Massachusetts.
QUINLAN, James R., Pvt., 31308498, Co. "M", Arlington, Massachusetts.
SPENCER, Albert L., Pvt., 36784645, Co. "H", Williamsville, Illinois.
TAUCHEN, Robert T., Pvt., 36909947, Co. "K", Chicago, Illinois.
VANDERHOOF, Victor S., Jr., Pvt., 36909824, Co. "K", Joliet, Illinois.
VISE, Radis A., Pvt., 35906882, Co. "K", Garrett, Indiana.
WILDRICK, Andrew A., Pfc., 33614542, Co. "K", Sayre, Pennsylvania.

4 FEBRUARY 1945

ISRAEL, Mark J., Pvt., 3771071, Co. "F", Colorado Springs, Colorado.
PAIGE, Clarence W., Pvt., 34931895, Co. "B", Honea Path, South Carolina.
STREET, Ralph C., 2nd Lt., 0-1291193, Co. "H", New Orleans, Louisiana.
WALKER, Charlie R., Pfc., 34890384, Co. "B", Mill Spring, North Carolina.

5 FEBRUARY 1945

ARNOLD, Bryan L., Pvt., 33835673, Co. "E", Helle-town, Pennsylvania.
CASTROVINCE, Thomas, Pvt., 36956622, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
CORBIN, Frank A., Jr., Pfc., 38578164, Co. "A", El Paso, Texas.
FACHET, Adolph F., Sgt., 13124185, Co. "C", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
FRIDAY, Charles J., Jr., Pfc., 33792341, Co. "B", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
KAISER, Glendon H., Pfc., 32640435, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Forrest Hills, New York.
LA BAUN, Edwin W., Pvt., 36909602, Co. "E", Chicago, Illinois.
MELELLA, Carmine L., Pvt., 42067287, Co. "D", Yonkers, New York.
MIER, Robert C., S/Sgt., 36171586, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Hillman, Minnesota.
MILLER, Claude M., Pvt., 39346095, Co. "F", Gateway, Oregon.
PETERS, George M., Pvt., 33813508, Co. "C", Narbert, Pennsylvania.
ROWLAND, Edward R., Pfc., 35733691, Co. "I", South Irvine, Kentucky.
WILLIAMS, Floyd E., Jr., Pfc., 31317598, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., North Bancroft, Maine.
WITKOWSKI, Frank A., Pfc., 33897882, Co. "K", Baltimore, Maryland.

6 FEBRUARY 1945

GOTTSCHALK, Arthur H., Pfc., 35063350, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Cleveland, Ohio.
HOLLINSWORTH, Don C., Pvt., 37711247, Co. "I", Ogallala, Nebraska.
MORRETT, James A., Pvt., 36161807, Co. "B", Benton Harbor, Michigan.
TAYLOR, John C., Sgt., 35875040, Co. "B", Maysville, Kentucky.

9 FEBRUARY 1945

KONOPKA, Joseph S., Pfc., 31350457, Co. "B", Three Rivers, Massachusetts.

17 FEBRUARY 1945

STEVENSON, Robert T., Jr., Pfc., 37728839, Co. "E", Avondale, Missouri.
VALDEZ, Jose F., Pfc., Co. "B", Gobernador, New Mexico.

18 FEBRUARY 1945

PUSEY, Walter W., Pvt., 33906928, Co. "L", Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

The German Campaign

14 MARCH 1945

NEELS, Milton I., Pvt., 42097210, Co. "H", Walworth, New York.
SNIDARICH, John F., Pvt., 37771867, Co. "A", Eveleth, Minnesota.

15 MARCH 1945

BABINEAUX, Curley, Pfc., 38260231, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Carencro, Louisiana.
BEADER, Gordon C., Pvt., 42122806, Co. "E", Endicott, New York.
BERG, Leonard, S/Sgt., 36297348, Co. "F", Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
CLARK, Edward D., Pvt., 39934111, Co. "F", Great Falls, Montana.
CHAVES, William M., Jr., Sgt., 31428188, Co. "D", Fall River, Massachusetts.
CREGAN, John T., Pvt., 37749079, Co. "F", Davis, Cleburn S., Pvt., 34837961, Co. "F", Buford, Georgia.
DE SISTO, Mario, Pvt., 39480050, Co. "F", Seattle, Washington.

DRUCKER, Simon, Pfc., 32882827, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Astoria, New York.
DUNCAN, Kenneth L., Pvt., 36910618, Co. "F", Viola, Illinois.
ECKHOUT, Leonard P., Pvt., 36909275, Co. "K", East Moline, Illinois.
EVANICH, Andy, Pfc., 33440893, Co. "E", Monevsa, Pennsylvania.
FARANDA, John A., Pvt., 42179237, Co. "K", Brooklyn, New York.
FORISTER, William G., Pvt., 38571105, Co. "E", Seminole, Oklahoma.
GIBSON, Paul D., Pvt., 35816601, Co. "F", Hebbardsville, Kentucky.
HEIDENFELDER, John J., Jr., Pvt., 17034136, Med. Det., St. Louis, Missouri.
HEIGOLD, Gene G., Pvt., 37627187, Co. "L", Saint Louis, Missouri.
KLEIBOEKER, Hubert H. A., Pfc., 37748996, Co. "F", Wentworth, Missouri.
KLEIN, Bernard, Pfc., 32249842, Co. "B", Bronx, New York.
KOLODZIEJ, Edward M., Pfc., 32773084, Co. "F", Wallington, New Jersey.
MEKRUIT, John, Pfc., 33300612, Co. "F", Butler, Pennsylvania.
NEAL, William T., Pfc., 34497419, Co. "F", Neptune, Tennessee.
PEDERSON, Selmer L., Pvt., 37599123, Co. "E", Gonvick, Minnesota.
PETRY, Edgar, S/Sgt., 35795601, Co. "K", Sexton, Kentucky.
RANKIN, Robert W., 1st Lt., 0-1030927, Co. "F", Hinsdale, Illinois.
REYNOLDS, Robert H., Sgt., 6259505, Co. "E", Dallas, Texas.
ROSE, Arthur C., M/Sgt., 37018094, Co. "F", St. Paul, Minnesota.
SALLEE, George C., Pvt., 38451678, Co. "F", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
SCHEPKOWSKI, Theodore V., S/Sgt., 34897922, Co. "K", Brevard, North Carolina.
SCOTT, Fred A., Pvt., 39196712, Co. "K", Port Angeles, Washington.
SMITH, Norvel C., Sgt., 35835167, Co. "G", Eddyville, Kentucky.
STEIN, Joseph N., Pfc., 36684087, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
SULLIVAN, Warren J., Pfc., 6914746, Co. "K", Grand Rapids, Michigan.
SWANSON, Earl E., Capt., 0-2055276, Co. "F", Minneapolis, Minnesota.
TIFFANY, Willard H., Pfc., 6878802, Co. "B", Oswego, New York.

16 MARCH 1945

AZZATA, Frank, Pvt., 32650901, Co. "C", New York, New York.
BARTILUCCI, James J., Sgt., 32880519, Co. "C", Long Island, New York.
CAMPBELL, Charles B., Pfc., 34896191, Co. "C", Greenville, South Carolina.
DREHER, Thomas H., Pfc., 34844641, Co. "K", West Columbia, South Carolina.
FULLER, Julius, Pfc., 34898822, Co. "C", Hamlet, North Carolina.
GRAHAM, Roland H., Pfc., 31401732, Co. "C", Bridgton, Maine.
MOON, Chiles W., Pvt., 38475118, Co. "L", Pittsburg, Texas.

17 MARCH 1945

MANNO, George J., Pfc., 36686654, Co. "B", Chicago, Illinois.
MARRERO, Gerardo, Pfc., 32641721, Co. "I", New York, New York.

18 MARCH 1945

CAMPBELL, Woodrow, Pvt., 18166788, Co. "K", Emmet, Arkansas.
DELANEY, Paul J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-1319931, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
DELONG, Lewis R., Pfc., 36952756, Co. "A", Flint, Michigan.
DI PASQUALE, Urbano, Sgt., 33371423, Co. "A", Reading, Pennsylvania.
DIXON, Dewey W., Pfc., 34892037, Co. "A", Marion, North Carolina.
DUTILL, Eitae A., Pfc., 31116655, Regtl. Hqrs. Co., Lewiston, Maine.
FINK, John F., Pvt., 35832689, Co. "I", Akron, Ohio.
GOWER, Clyde A., Pfc., 33587441, Co. "D", Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
GUARD, Ernest K., 1st Lt., 0-1304898, AT Co., Orlando, Florida.
HIGDON, Howard J., Pvt., 35816415, Co. "C", Clarkston, Kentucky.
HORTON, Melford M., Pfc., 39934400, Co. "C", Crosby, North Dakota.
KARNS, Harold, Pvt., 35087912, Co. "A", Eaton, Ohio.
PRINCIPIE, Raymond E., T/5, 36813343, Co. "K", Kenosha, Wisconsin.
ROLKE, William A., T/5, 35461154, Co. "K", Amelia, Ohio.
ROSE, William E., Pfc., 39143628, Co. "D", Doctota, California.
SMITH, Corwin J., Pvt., 37749254, Co. "A", Gove, Nebraska.
STUTCHBURY, Bruce F., Pfc., 32734494, Co. "K", Rochester, New York.
THORPE, Harry R., Jr., Pfc., 33805383, Co. "C", Lansdown, Pennsylvania.
WORDEN, Frank J., Pvt., 38582721, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Seminole, Texas.

19 MARCH 1945
 BARBOUR, Will P., Jr., 2nd Lt., 0-200689, Co. "B",
 Four Oaks, North Carolina.
 BEST, Lowell E., T/5, 36736532, Co. "I", Albion,
 Illinois.
 CHEWIE, Jose A., Pfc., 38010059, Med. Det., Isleta,
 New Mexico.
 DAVIS, Jefferson W., 2nd Lt., 0-540090, Co. "A",
 Chillingthe, Missouri.
 DRABEN, Melvin H., T/5, 36670745, Co. "I", Joliet,
 Illinois.
 KELLER, Henry J., Pfc., 35789865, Co. "A", Paris,
 Kentucky.
 McDONNELL, Robert E., 1st Lt., 0-1826290, Co.
 "B", Fort Dodge, Iowa.
 McGEE, Emery J., Sgt., 18129713, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co.,
 Goodland, Oklahoma.
 MOCKEVICIUS, Edward A., Pfc., 31464433, Co. "I",
 Lawrence, Massachusetts.
 NESTLER, Fred, Jr., Pfc., 36909864, Co. "B", Spring
 Valley, Illinois.
 PRESTON, Charles E., Pfc., 11040377, Co. "A",
 Derry, New Hampshire.
 ROSA, Nicholas J., Pfc., 32863274, Co. "A", Corona,
 New York.
 WHITEHEAD, V. O., Pvt., 34928526, 1st Bn. Hqrs.
 Co., Tylertown, Mississippi.
 WHITTINGTON, Albert E., Pvt., 39479966, 1st Bn.
 Hqrs. Co., Ranier, Washington.
 WOOLWINE, Carl H., Pfc., 33658406, Co. "A",
 Christiansburg, Virginia.

20 MARCH 1945
 ACKER, Frank, T/Sgt., 33436436, Co. "G", Hager-
 town, Pennsylvania.
 CARTIER, Albert G., Pfc., 31428679, Co. "A",
 Wrentham, Massachusetts.

21 MARCH 1945
 BAKER, Donald J., Sr., Pfc., 34931065, Co. "A",
 Cheraw, South Carolina.
 BENEDICT, Clifford J., Pvt., 6573121, Co. "B",
 Pasadena, California.
 ORLESKI, Stanley, S/Sgt., 33611344, Co. "B", Wilkes
 Barre, Pennsylvania.

26 MARCH 1945
 BROWN, Ralph E., Pfc., 33701206, Co. "M", New
 Freeport, Pennsylvania.
 BURNS, Owen V., Pfc., 37193559, Co. "C", Charles
 City, Iowa.
 COFFIN, Cecil B., Pvt., 39343178, Co. "D", Eagle
 Point, Oregon.
 DANIEL, Samuel L., 2nd Lt., 0-2010646, Co. "I",
 Cullman, Alabama.
 DOWNEY, Thomas E., Jr., Sgt., 36784593, Co. "D",
 Lerna, Illinois.
 DROBNIK, Frank S., Sgt., 35921678, Co. "C", Cleve-
 land, Ohio.
 FLOURNOY, Edward O., Pfc., 38481892, Co. "K",
 Pickton, Texas.
 FRENCH, William H., Pvt., 31434607, Co. "I", Plain-
 ville, Massachusetts.
 GOODNITE, Glenn N., Pvt., 35778518, Co. "I",
 Hartford, West Virginia.
 GRAY, Alvin V., T/Sgt., 20530746, Co. "F", Inde-
 pendence, Indiana.
 HEWITT, Thomas L., Pfc., 34916180, Co. "K", Bir-
 mingham, Alabama.
 HOOVER, Everett L., Pfc., 37734846, Co. "K", Wal-
 nut, Iowa.
 HURLEY, Floyd W., Sgt., 36909184, Co. "K", Pekin,
 Illinois.
 KRAMPE, Earl E., 1st Lt., 0-1042341, Co. "M",
 Brazil, Indiana.
 MEADVILLE, Charles E., Pvt., 33893456, Co. "F",
 Mollenawer, Pennsylvania.
 MILKOWSKI, Stanley P., Pvt., 42165544, Co. "F",
 Hudson Falls, New York.
 MURRAY, William J., Pfc., 42096434, Co. "F",
 Niagara Falls, New York.
 NAPPI, Anthony, T/5, 32339845, Co. "C", New
 York, New York.
 NELSEN, James D., Pvt., 36845546, Co. "F", Racine,
 Wisconsin.
 ROSEMA, Theodore A., Pvt., 13029637, 3rd Bn.
 Hqrs. Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 RUDQUIST, George E., Pfc., 37597335, Co. "K",
 Hamil, Minnesota.
 SIMON, Cornelius M., Pvt., 42083710, Co. "F", Mt.
 Ephraim, New Jersey.
 SKIDMORE, George W., Pvt., 37710019, Co. "A",
 Grand Junction, Colorado.
 SPEARING, Everett J., Sgt., 31018389, Co. "A", New
 York, New York.

29 DECEMBER 1942
 STANFORD, Llewellyn, Pvt., 19032061, Co. "C",
 Michigan.
30 DECEMBER 1942
 MARTIN, Larmer A., Pvt., 36128161, Co. "I", Perry,
 Michigan.
25 FEBRUARY 1943
 GARNER, James H., Pvt., 35618422, Co. "D", Cleve-
 land, Ohio.
18 APRIL 1943
 LAYNE, Malcolm B., Pvt., 35637266, Co. "A",
 Langely, Kentucky.

27 MARCH 1945
 COONS, Walter S., Pvt., 6871087, Co. "A", Buffalo,
 New York.
 EGGEMEYER, Clyde L., Pfc., 36446157, Regtl. Hqrs.
 Co., Chester, Illinois.
 EVENSON, Orville J., Pvt., 37577630, Co. "B", St.
 Paul, Minnesota.
 HURLBUT, Edmund A., T/Sgt., 31114652, 2nd Bn.
 Hqrs. Co., St. Albans, Vermont.
 KENDALL, Edwin A., Pfc., 37595122, Co. "K",
 Mitchell, South Dakota.
 TRESSLER, Donald V., Cpl., 33759567, 2nd Bn.
 Hqrs. Co., Meyers Dale, Pennsylvania.

28 MARCH 1945
 FIPPS, Bailey, Pfc., 34010563, Co. "A", Loris, South
 Carolina.
 TOLLEFSON, Arthur G., Pfc., 37771980, Co. "B",
 Fosston, Minnesota.

29 MARCH 1945
 ERHARDT, Harold W., 1st Lt., 0-406243, 2nd Bn.
 Hqrs. Co., Burlington, New Jersey.

31 MARCH 1945
 CHILDERS, Francis M., Pfc., 37610460, Co. "E", St.
 Louis, Missouri.
 CRAWFORD, John B., Pfc., 44066666, Co. "B", Har-
 lem, Georgia.
 GREGORY, Hugh N., Sgt., 44025183, Co. "C",
 Alkens, South Carolina.
 PARKER, Preston M., Sgt., 34547003, Co. "B", St.
 Petersburg, Florida.
 RAMSEY, Bill, Pvt., 4404088, Co. "B", Crosby Ten-
 nessee.
 SMITH, Charles E., Pfc., 33878488, Co. "F", Potosi,
 Missouri.
 ZAWADA, Stanley J., Pvt., 36910693, Co. "C",
 Chicago, Illinois.

2 APRIL 1945
 CHANEY, Charles, Pvt., 32776816, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co.,
 Woodbridge, New Jersey.
 HICKEY, Avon H., Pvt., 44032858, Co. "G", Farrant,
 Alabama.
 HUNT, Wilbur F., Pvt., 31414134, Co. "E", Cole-
 brook, New Hampshire.
 LANE, Richard J., Pvt., 31389486, Co. "F", Lowell
 Massachusetts.

5 APRIL 1945
 DEEKE, Norman H., Sgt., 35902990, Regtl. Hqrs. Co.,
 Johnson, Denton D., Pvt., 33838048, Co. "E",
 Birdsboro, Pennsylvania.
 SPADONI, Reynold L., J. Pfc., 31427715, Co. "G",
 Hyde Park, Massachusetts.
 THOMAS, E. L., Pfc., 34705979, Co. "E", Lacey
 Springs, Alabama.

6 APRIL 1945
 GROGG, Claude R., Pvt., 33893535, Co. "G", Roches-
 ter, Pennsylvania.
 STEVENS, Bennie A., Pfc., 36909491, Co. "G", Piper
 City, Illinois.

8 APRIL 1945
 BROBST, Charles W., Cpl., 33236473, Co. "L",
 Sunbury, Pennsylvania.
 BROOKS, Glenn D., Sgt., 35235397, Co. "C", Akron,
 Ohio.
 BROWN, Armand V., Pvt., 37711493, Co. "L", Bogue,
 Kansas.
 DE TURK, Ernest S., T/5, 33232599, AT Co., Read-
 ing, Pennsylvania.
 LANIANO, Carmin J., Pfc., 32778374, Co. "B",
 Boonton, New Jersey.
 SIMPSON, Leonard F., Pfc., 33284791, Med. Det.,
 Manorville, Pennsylvania.

9 APRIL 1945
 KLEIN, Edward A., Pvt., 42057111, Co. "K", New
 York, New York.
 MERRILL, Walter, Pvt., 42114487, Co. "K", Schen-
 ectady, New York.
 NIEMI, Wilbert M., Pvt., 36845477, Co. "K", Brant-
 wood, Wisconsin.
 PRITCHETT, George H., Pvt., 36784711, Co. "K",
 Park Rapids, Minnesota.

10 APRIL 1945
 THOMPSON, Charles E., Pvt., 31423468, Co. "I",
 Hyde Park, Massachusetts.
 WARBECK, Stephen S., Pfc., 31285030, Co. "G",
 Greenfield, Massachusetts.

11 APRIL 1945
 STEWARD, Robert L., Jr., Pvt., 33592959, Co. "K",
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 WISE, Samuel G., Pfc., 36978508, Co. "K", Ray,
 Indiana.

12 APRIL 1945
 COPEN, Carl L., S/Sgt., 35756306, Co. "K", Eliza-
 beth, West Virginia.

14 APRIL 1945
 KILLHAM, John, Cpl., 37087576, Cn. Co., Sidney,
 Nebraska.

15 APRIL 1945
 SMITH, Clifford B., T/5, 35768023, Co. "D", Scar-
 bro, West Virginia.

16 APRIL 1945
 JOHNSON, Harold D., Pvt., 37775582, Co. "E",
 Eagle Lake, Minnesota.
 MITCHELL, Robert A., Pvt., 42097221, Co. "E",
 Canadigua, New York.
 ROGERS, Eugene J., Pfc., 31167388, Med. Det.,
 Winstead, Kentucky.
 SHAROL, Teddy W., Sgt., 33893534, Co. "F", New
 Castle, Pennsylvania.
 STEFFAN, Elmer E., Pfc., 39928869, Co. "L", Philips-
 burg, Montana.

17 APRIL 1945
 PUNDT, Arthur R., Pvt., 42188203, Co. "H", Glen-
 ridge, New Jersey.
 VOORHEES, Darryl V., Pvt., 35906916, Co. "L",
 South Bend, Indiana.

18 APRIL 1945
 BASCO, Stephen J., Cpl., 32842929, Co. "C", Toma-
 wando, New York.
 CANONICA, Edmund M., Pvt., 42188603, Co. "E",
 Jersey City, New Jersey.
 CUNNINGHAM, Alvy L., Pvt., 44047592, Co. "E",
 Escataupa, Mississippi.
 SMITH, Richard E., Pvt., 31414764, Co. "E", Willi-
 mantic, Connecticut.
 TOMASKI, Stanley, Pvt., 32669697, Co. "L", Check-
 toago, New York.
 VENEZIA, Michael C., Sgt., 32498705, Co. "L",
 Brooklyn, New York.

19 APRIL 1945
 DRAUSZEWSKI, Henry, Pvt., 6147029, Co. "G",
 Derby, Connecticut.
 PERRY, Richard C., Pvt., 32981941, Co. "D", New
 York, New York.
 SAXTON, Earl, Pvt., 36905678, Co. "A", Peoria,
 Illinois.
 UTLEY, John D., Pfc., 35803195, Co. "F", Harves-
 ton, Kentucky.

20 APRIL 1945
 GAMBLE, William C., Pvt., 42096995, Co. "E",
 Hilton, New York.

21 APRIL 1945
 TAYLOR, Harold, T/5, 35118621, Co. "C", West
 Union, Ohio.

26 APRIL 1945
 HAENI, Robert, Pvt., 36818088, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co.,
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
 LEUZE, Ralph E., 2nd Lt., 0-1332614, Co. "A",
 Evans Mills, New York.

27 APRIL 1945
 CLARKE, Walter N., T/Sgt., 35654942, Co. "A",
 Mullens, West Virginia.
 NUTTALL, Peter, Pvt., 42190363, Co. "K", Lenola,
 New Jersey.

3 MAY 1945
 BLASKOWSKI, Leonard J., Pvt., 33943037, Co. "M",
 Nanticoke, Michigan.
 GOODLOE, Everett M., Pfc., 38530461, Co. "I", Red
 Oak, Texas.

4 MAY 1945
 FRANK, Harry E., Jr., Pfc., 32954751, Co. "E",
 Paulsboro, New Jersey.

13 JUNE 1945
 LEWALLEN, William L., T/4, 17046144, Med. Det.,
 Zion, Missouri.

DIED OF INJURIES

THE MEN LISTED BELOW MET DEATH THROUGH ILLNESS, EXPOSURE, DROWNING ACCIDENTS DURING
 AMPHIBIOUS TRAINING, VEHICLE WRECKS, BURNS OR GUN SHOT WOUNDS FROM ACCIDENTAL
 DISCHARGE OF WEAPONS. ALL WERE IN LINE OF DUTY.

29 DECEMBER 1942
 STANFORD, Llewellyn, Pvt., 19032061, Co. "C",
 Michigan.
30 DECEMBER 1942
 MARTIN, Larmer A., Pvt., 36128161, Co. "I", Perry,
 Michigan.
25 FEBRUARY 1943
 GARNER, James H., Pvt., 35618422, Co. "D", Cleve-
 land, Ohio.
18 APRIL 1943
 LAYNE, Malcolm B., Pvt., 35637266, Co. "A",
 Langely, Kentucky.

SMITH, Thomas J., Pvt., 13081111, Co. "B", Phila-
 delphia, Pennsylvania.

30 MAY 1943
 PRETKIEWICZ, August J., Pvt., 7030060, Co. "A",
 Muskegon, Michigan.

27 JUNE 1943
 SETZKORN, Irvin R., Cpl., 37014221, Med. Det.,
 Dodge City, Kansas.

21 JULY 1943
 FOSTER, Charles R., Cpl., 35101171, Regtl. Hqrs. Co.,
 Harrodsburg, Kentucky.

3 AUGUST 1943
 GARCIA, Jose M., Pvt., 38169427, Co. "F", Ledoux,
 New Mexico.

17 AUGUST 1943
 BOOTH, Everett J., Pvt., 35436297, Co. "K", Beckley,
 West Virginia.

3 SEPTEMBER 1943
 RAMACKAR, Harold F., Pvt., 33423560, Co. "K",
 Joffre, Pennsylvania.

19 OCTOBER 1943
 SCHUSTER, John W., Pfc., 35118585, Regtl. Hqrs.
 Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

1 DECEMBER 1943
 COOK, Dexter M., Pfc., 35659001, Co. "H", Keyrock, West Virginia.

5 MARCH 1944
 COSIO, Gustave M., Pvt., 32962678, Co. "G", New York, New York.

13 APRIL 1944
 HORAN, Joseph P., Pfc., 12090952, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., New York, New York.
 MEADOR, Elmer O., Pfc., 35637119, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Odd, West Virginia.

5 MAY 1944
 CAINE, Sheldon, Pvt., 32898334, Sv. Co., Brooklyn, New York.

12 MAY 1944
 McLAUGHLIN, Alvin C., Pfc., 38290667, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Black Oak, Arkansas.

7 JUNE 1944
 ROBERTS, Isaac D., Pvt., 34493438, Co. "A", Dunlap, Tennessee.

17 JUNE 1944
 DARE, Samuel E., T/5, 35153523, Co. "G", Walkerton, Indiana.

23 AUGUST 1944
 KAPLAN, Benjamin, Pvt., 32979685, Co. "I", Bronx, New York.

13 SEPTEMBER 1944
 Hall, Zehnor, T/4, 6936322, Co. "G", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944
 NIELSON, Vernon H., Pvt., 17006024, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Seattle, Washington.

10 OCTOBER 1944
 WESENBURG, Daniel W., Pvt., 36818007, 1st Bn. Hqrs. Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

14 OCTOBER 1944
 JOHNSON, Lawrence, Pvt., 35771601, Co. "M", Crow, West Virginia.

8 DECEMBER 1944
 WARUS, Otto M., Cpl., 37276370, Med. Det., Carlson, North Dakota.

20 DECEMBER 1944
 EVANS, Robert E., 1st Lt., 0-433033, Co. "A", Marfa, Texas.

20 JANUARY 1945
 BOWMAN, Stanley H., Jr., Pvt., 33612079, Co. "A", Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania.

12 MARCH 1945
 DUNHAM, Donald E., Pfc., 32947262, Co. "A", Troy, New Jersey.
 GERHARDT, Michael M., Jr., Pvt., 36910098, Co. "A", Chicago, Illinois.

24 MARCH 1945
 RAMNICK, Raymond, T/5, 32417857, 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Brooklyn, New York.

16 APRIL 1945
 SMITH, Harold L., Pfc., 19014594, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., McMinnville, Oregon.

20 APRIL 1945
 CONGLETON, Frank, Jr., Pvt., 44014290, AT Co., Aulander, North Carolina.

22 APRIL 1945
 McMANUS, Warren R., Pfc., 19015457, Regt. Hqrs. Co., Doris, California.

29 APRIL 1945
 MERRITT, Carl A., Pvt., 38602206, Co. "L", Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

12 MAY 1945
 VIRGIL, Gillierio, Pfc., 37347610, Co. "E", Fort Garland, Colorado.

4 JUNE 1945
 GOODSON, Elbert R., Pfc., 34397854, 3rd Bn. Hqrs. Co., Birmingham, Alabama.

14 JULY 1945
 FUNK, Christian, Pfc., 31380524, Co. "H", New London, Connecticut.
 YURISICH, Harold M., Pfc., 39216615, Co. "I", Tacoma, Washington.

30 JULY 1945
 MUSAK, Floyd P., Pvt., 36627554, Co. "M", Chicago, Illinois.
 SALTILL, Lewis C., Pfc., 37606979, Co. "D", Calena, Missouri.

7 AUGUST 1945
 EDWARDS, Leslie, Cpl., 32839226, AT Co., Livingston, Manor, New York.

17 SEPTEMBER 1945
 VAN DEMARK, Kenneth R., Pfc., 33779245, Co. "H", Chester, Pennsylvania.

FORMER "COTTON BALERS" KILLED IN ACTION WHILE SERVING WITH OTHER UNITS

6 MAY 1943
 RICHEY, James Alexander, Lt., 0-305939, while serving with Co. "M", 168th Infantry, 34th Inf. Div. in the Beja-Mateur sector, Tunisia. From Yakima, Washington.

29 MAY 1943
 CLOUD, Eugene Harrington, Major, while serving as American Aide-de-Camp to the English General K. A. N. Anderson in Tunisia. From San Antonio, Texas.

17 JULY 1944
 VAN BUSKIRK, Hal, Pfc., 19046047, while serving with 2nd Bn. Hqrs. Co., 175th Inf., 29th Inf. Div. near St. Lo, France. From Los Angeles, California.

18 OCTOBER 1944
 TAYLOR, Harry J., S/Sgt., 6573491, while serving with Co. "B", 321st Inf., 81st Inf. Div., on Pelelieu Island in the Pacific. Posthumously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action. From Los Angeles, California.

13 DECEMBER 1944
 PIERCE, Clarence, while serving with Co. "C", 157th Inf., 45th Inf. Div., in France. From Humnoke, Arkansas.

LIST OF MEN AND OFFICERS OF THE TENTH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION KILLED IN ACTION WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

3 AUGUST 1943
 OBLAD, Briant O., Capt., 0-315465, Sv. B'try, Salt Lake City, Utah.

4 AUGUST 1943
 JOHNSON, Elver S., T/5, 37039865, Hqrs. B'try, Lost Creek, West Virginia.
 WEISIGER, William B., 2nd Lt., 0-1168130, B'try "C", Memphis, Tennessee.

5 AUGUST 1943
 PORTH, Harold J., Pvt., 37019807, B'try "A", Litchfield, Minnesota.

6 AUGUST 1943
 CASSIDY, James D., Pfc., 35441156, Hqrs. B'try, Williamstown, West Virginia.
 CORBEILLE, Maxum E., Pvt., 6113537, Hqrs. B'try, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
 FAY, John A., Pfc., 19372203, Hqrs. B'try, Decatur, Illinois.
 HARKER, Harvey A., Pvt., 18084308, Hqrs. B'try, Hulbert, Oklahoma.
 HELM, Williams L., T/5, 36093972, Hqrs. B'try, Glen Ellyn, Illinois.
 LEGAKO, Roman, T/Sgt., 6264113, Hqrs. B'try, Well-ton, Oklahoma.
 SNYDER, Glenn H., T/5, 39078570, Hqrs. B'try, Stockton, California.

8 AUGUST 1943
 BREUNINGER, Fred, Sgt., 6579905, B'try "C", San Diego, California.

9 AUGUST 1943
 OWENS, Merlin LeRoy, Pvt., 39676878, B'try "A", Burley, Idaho.

26 SEPTEMBER 1943
 QUINN, Aubrey, Pfc., 39084454, Hqrs. B'try, Likely, California.

8 NOVEMBER 1943
 FUREY, Charles R., T/5, 32612056, B'try "B", New York, New York.

11 NOVEMBER 1943
 SMITH, James T., Jr., S/Sgt., 33189690, Hqrs. B'try, Alexandrick, West Virginia.

22 JANUARY 1944
 FINNEY, Jack L., T/5, 39382825, B'try "C", Everett, Washington.

30 JANUARY 1944
 HOOVER, Virgil F., Pfc., 37015718, B'try "A", Huntington Park, California.

31 JANUARY 1944
 STRGOS, James P., Sgt., 6947072, Hqrs. B'try, Scranton, Pennsylvania.

7 FEBRUARY 1944
 RITLAND, Lester G., Pvt., 37040187, B'try "B", Huxley, Iowa.

9 FEBRUARY 1944
 CLARK, Richard J., Capt., 0-412657, B'try "B", Salinas, California.

19 FEBRUARY 1944
 REIMERS, Frederick, 2nd Lt., 0-1179183, B'try "B", Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

29 FEBRUARY 1944
 AIOSA, Anthony M., Pvt., 3236059, Hqrs. B'try, Orange, New Jersey.
 FRANK, Raymond R., Pvt., 36665913, Sv. B'try, Chicago, Illinois.
 JENSEN, Richard E., Sgt., 37019844, B'try "C", Clements, Minnesota.

1 MARCH 1944
 KOSTRIBA, Valentine, T/4, 37019930, B'try "B", Holdingford, Minnesota.
 LYON, Ralph F., Pvt., 6264095, B'try "B", Bayard, Nebraska.
 NOVAK, Herman E., Pfc., 36242398, B'try "C", Hancock, Wisconsin.

PINIANSKI, Paul, Jr., Pvt., 33355860, B'try "C", Dickson, Pennsylvania.
SCHEUCH, Henry F., 2nd Lt., 0-1179260, B'try "B", Ellsworth, Kansas.

2 MARCH 1944
 WITTKOPP, Arthur, Pfc., 38062568, B'try "B", El Reno, Oklahoma.

4 MARCH 1944
 ERWIN, James R., Pvt., 34288549, B'try "C", Limestone, Tennessee.
 GROTZINGER, Henry C., Pfc., 6883415, B'try "C", Renovo, Pennsylvania.
 JOHNSON, Morris T., Pvt., 6933384, Hqrs. B'try, Robbinsdale, Minnesota.
 McINTOSH, Park, Pfc., 15054123, B'try "C", Newport, Kentucky.
 McKENNEY, Raymond J., Pvt., 39005861, B'try "C", San Francisco, California.
 MUSULIN, Tony, Pvt., 35158719, B'try "C", Indianapolis, Indiana.
 REID, John W., Pfc., 39601596, B'try "C", Miles City, Montana.

6 MARCH 1944
 SCHULTZ, Emmett E., T/4, 37019860, Sv. B'try, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

10 MARCH 1944
 PROVOST, Thomas F., Pvt., 32916094, B'try "C", Jersey City, New Jersey.

27 MARCH 1944
 SORNOSO, Sylvester J., Pvt., 39295931, B'try "B", Los Angeles, California.

26 MAY 1944
 HORNER, Donald M., T/4, 6563973, B'try "A", West Park Bremerton, California.
 JONES, Jenkin R., 1st Lt., 0-1170439, B'try "B", Warren, Ohio.
 MORMANIS, Kris D., Cpl., 3901583, B'try "B", Los Angeles, California.

MOORE, Earl H., Sgt., 19019375, Hqrs. B'try, Grass Range, Montana.
SORENSEN, Ralph C., Capt., 0-401030, B'try "C", Salt Lake City, Utah.

27 MAY 1944
LUIZZI, Donato, 2nd Lt., 0-1183116, B'try "C", Boston, Massachusetts.

3 JUNE 1944
JESEVICH, Peter, Pfc., 36396696, B'try "C", Cicero, Illinois.

17 AUGUST 1944
WIESEN, Donald, T/5, 20713144, Hqrs. B'try, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

23 AUGUST 1944
ROSSELL, Berton L., T/4, 37019767, Hqrs. B'try, Otwater, Minnesota.

5 SEPTEMBER 1944
GERARD, Carmine J., Pvt., 32915354, B'try "B", Newark, New Jersey.
ROSCIA, Vincent, Pvt., 12065604, B'try "B", Brooklyn, New York.

21 SEPTEMBER 1944
RAY, Lloyd B., Pvt., 33723819, Hqrs. B'try, Riverdale, Maryland.

31 OCTOBER 1944
PULKKINEN, Oiva L., Pfc., 19066249, Hqrs. B'try, Los Angeles, California.

15 NOVEMBER 1944
GRIGGS, Caston E., Pvt., 34644805, Hqrs. B'try, Hartville, South Carolina.

19 JANUARY 1945
MARTIN, William R., T/5, 13155961, B'try "B", Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

25 JANUARY 1945
RUBY, Donald A., Pvt., 37559540, Hqrs. B'try, Miller, South Dakota.

30 JANUARY 1945
VODLICK, John, Jr., Cpl., 35011083, B'try "C", Barbertown, Ohio.

3 FEBRUARY 1945
HINES, Raymond S., Pvt., 15059885, B'try "C", Frankfort, Indiana.
PEDEN, Forrest E., T/5, 37503529, B'try "C", Wathena, Kansas.

18 MARCH 1945
KYTE, George J., Jr., 1st Lt., 0-460433, Hqrs. B'try, West Hartford, Connecticut.

LIST OF MEN OF COMPANY "A", TENTH ENGINEER COMBAT BATTALION KILLED IN ACTION WHILE IN SUPPORT OF THE SEVENTH INFANTRY REGIMENT

8 NOVEMBER 1942
MERDALO, George J., Pvt., 39390466, Dutch Flat, California.

14 MAY 1943
REDMOND, Thomas J., T/5, 36201894, Arpin, Wisconsin.

16 JULY 1943
DE STEFANO, Edward J., 33059623, Ashley, Pennsylvania.
FILLMORE, Robert J., Pvt., 37006535, Cottonwood Falls, Kansas.
GUSKI, Stance, Cpl., 36201828, Washburn, Wisconsin.
HELLAR, Lawrence A., Sgt., 39084983, Chelan, Washington.
MASSEY, Walter F., 37012331, Dewitt, Arkansas.

28 AUGUST 1943
HODGE, John N., Pvt., 33137696, Collingdale, Pennsylvania.

3 NOVEMBER 1943
STAMP, Ernie E., S/Sgt., 6939408, Clinton, Iowa.

27 FEBRUARY 1944
TOWSLEE, Donald J., Pfc., 36201850, Superior, Wisconsin.

1 MARCH 1944
CELLMER, Emil J., Pvt., 36004384, Chicago, Illinois.
WORKMAN, Carl J., Pvt., 35655263, Kimball, West Virginia.

11 MARCH 1944
ODEGARD, Gustave, Pfc., 6940041, Milnor, North Dakota.

8 JUNE 1944
CARECEHIO, George J., Pvt., 32172463, New York, New York.
WERNER, Albert J., Sgt., 39300005, Baker, Oregon.

4 JULY 1944
BLAND, George L., Sgt., 19019183, Boulder, Montana.

10 JULY 1944
CARLSON, Richard, Pvt., 31262944, Ware, Hardwick, Massachusetts.

13 JULY 1944
DUDEK, Joseph, Pvt., 13102391, Baltimore, Maryland.

14 JULY 1944
TRASATTI, Guido D., Pvt., 33784201, Chester, Pennsylvania.

16 JULY 1944
GABRIEL, Paul E., Pvt., 37702630, Fort Collins, Colorado.
STANDISH, Fred C., Cpl., 39850956, Lowell, Arizona.

10 OCTOBER 1944
McCALL, Bernice O., Pvt., 34890356, Highlands, North Carolina.

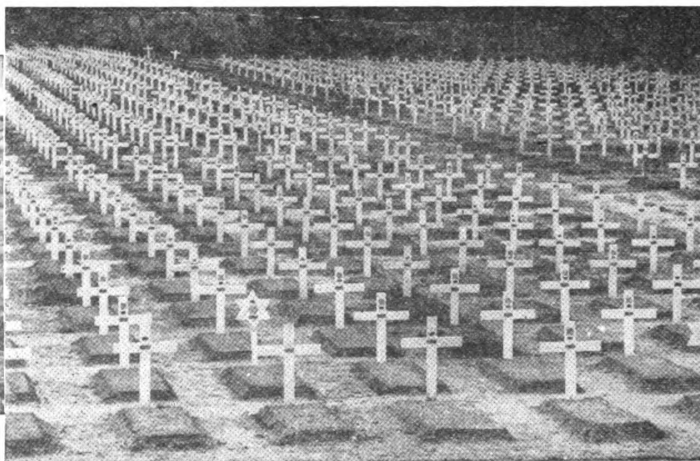
25 JANUARY 1945
EMBROGNO, Joseph A., Pfc., 35069378, Cleveland, Ohio.

8 APRIL 1945
MUIR, Robert E., Pfc., 33441453, Evans City, Pennsylvania.

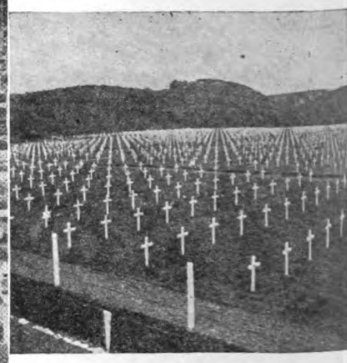
21 APRIL 1945
ORDONEZ, Rafael, Pfc., 38555571, Harlingen, Texas.



St. Avoird, France
PHOTO BY VINT



Anzio Beachhead, Italy, where 729 "Cotton Balers" Rest in Peace.
PHOTO BY LIFE PHOTOGRAPHER GEORGE SILK, COPYRIGHT TIME, INC.



Epinal, France
PHOTO BY VINT

VIEWS OF A FEW AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERIES IN EUROPE WHERE "COTTON BALERS" ARE BURIED

APPENDIX III

Campaign Credits, Citations, and Awards

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE-EASTERN THEATER OF OPERATIONS



A. TEN CAMPAIGNS

The Seventh Infantry participated in ten campaigns¹ in this theater of operations. They are listed below with the boundaries of the combat zones and the time limitations for each campaign as determined by the War Department.² Also the periods of time that the Seventh Infantry was within the combat zones for the respective campaigns are given.³

1. ALGERIA-FRENCH MOROCCO

- Combat zone.—Algeria, French Morocco, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—8 to 11 November 1942.
- The Seventh Infantry was active in French Morocco during the entire period.

2. TUNISIA

- Combat zone.—Tunisia and Algeria east of a north-south line through Constantine (inclusive), and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—12 November 1942 (air), 17 November (ground), to 13 May 1943.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone as a reserve unit from 6 to 13 May 1943.

3. SICILY

- Combat zone.—Sicily and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—14 May 1943 (air), 9 July 1943 (ground), to 17 August 1943.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

4. NAPLES-FOGGIA

- Combat zone.—Italy (exclusive of Sicily and Sardinia), Corsica, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—18 August 1943 (air), 9 September 1943 (ground), to 21 January 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone from 19 September 1943 to 21 January 1944.

5. ANZIO

- Combat zone.—Mussolini Canal-Sessano, Cisterna, Campoleone, Carroceto, Moletta River, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—22 January to 24 May 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

6. ROME-ARNO

- Combat zone.—Italy (exclusive of Sicily and Sardinia), Corsica, and adjacent waters, to 15 August 1944; thereafter, that portion of the Italian mainland and adjacent waters north of 42° north latitude, except that the area of the Anzio combat zone is excluded from 22 January to 24 May 1944.
- Time limitation.—22 January to 9 September 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the period 25 May to 14 August 1944 (inclusive).

7. SOUTHERN FRANCE

- Combat zone.—Those portions of France (exclusive of Corsica) occupied by forces assigned to the North African Theater of Operations, and adjacent waters.
- Time limitation.—15 August to 14 September 1944.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

8. RHINELAND

- Combat zone.—Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, and France east of the line: Franco-Belgian frontier to 4° east longitude, thence south along that meridian to the Mediterranean coast, except that the area of the Ardennes-Alsace combat zone is excluded from 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.
- Time limitation.—15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the periods 15 September to 15 December 1944, and 21 December 1944 to 21 March 1945.

9. ARDENNES-ALSACE

- Combat zone.—Euskirchen, Eupen (inclusive), Liege (exclusive), east bank of the Meuse River to its intersection with the Franco-Belgian border, thence south and east along this border to the western border of Luxembourg, thence to Metz (inclusive), east bank of the Moselle River to Epinal (inclusive), Strasbourg (inclusive).
- Time limitation.—16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the period 16 to 20 December 1944.

10. CENTRAL EUROPE

- Combat zone.—The areas occupied by troops assigned to the European Theater of Operations, east of a line 10 miles west of the Rhine River between Switzerland and the Waal River until 28 March 1945, and thereafter east of the east bank of the Rhine.
- Time limitation.—22 March to 11 May 1945.
- The Seventh Infantry was within the combat zone during the entire period.

B. BRONZE ASSAULT ARROWHEAD

The Seventh Infantry was in the assault wave during four major amphibious operations against Africa, Sicily, Italy and France during the war just ended. Personnel of the Regiment who participated in one or more of those operations are authorized the Bronze Assault Arrowhead which is worn to the right of the campaign or battle stars on the campaign ribbons.

C. THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION AWARDS

The Third Infantry Division was awarded the Distinguished Unit or Presidential Unit Citation for action performed during the period 22 January to 6 February 1945, and the French Fourragere for its

¹ However the Seventh Infantry has been awarded only four campaign streamers for its World War II action. Illustrations of them are shown in the preface. War Department policies in regard to these awards seems to be quite inconsistent. Why shouldn't a unit receive a campaign streamer for each campaign in which it participated to correspond to the battle or campaign stars with which it is credited?

² GO No. 24, War Department, Wash., D. C., 4 March 1947.

³ Periods of time within the combat zones must not be confused with time spent on the actual front lines. It was possible to be within the combat zones and not hear a shot fired. The combat zones of the front line Infantry were within those larger zones as determined by the War Department.

two awards of the Croix de Guerre with Palm for its victorious fighting "from the beaches of the Mediterranean to the banks of the Rhine."

Personnel of the Seventh Infantry who served with the Regiment during the said periods are authorized both the Distinguished Unit Badge and the French Fourragere.

As a unit of the Third Infantry Division the Seventh Infantry received a streamer in color of the Distinguished Unit Award.

D. DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS⁴

The following units of the Seventh Infantry were cited in the name of the President of the United States as public evidence of deserved honor and distinction:⁵

COMPANY "L"

For action at Vy-les-Lure, France, on 15-16 September 1944.

COMPANY "F"

For action near Ferdrupt, France, from 25 to 28 September 1944.

COMPANY "E"

For action during the fighting for Le Haute Jacques, France, during the period 31 October-4 November 1944.

FIRST BATTALION

For action during the period 20-24 November 1944 when Nayemont and Bourg-Bruche, France, were captured.

E. MERITORIOUS SERVICE UNIT PLAQUE AND FIRST STAR.

SERVICE COMPANY, SEVENTH INFANTRY

Was awarded the Plaque for outstanding and courageous performance of duty during the period 1 January-30 June 1944 in Italy, and was awarded

the First Star to the Plaque for performances in preparation for and during the campaigns in France for the period from 1 July-31 December 1944.

F. AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL "COTTON BALERS"⁶

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR



"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

On 12 July 1862 the Congress of the United States first authorized the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor when the following resolution was passed:

⁴ At the time of printing, the Seventh Infantry, as a unit, had not been cited for any of its actions in World War II, though recommendations for citations had been made to higher headquarters. Neither had the other regiments which fought as units of the Third Infantry Division been cited as complete units. The writer believes, however, that each of the three regiments, the 7th, 15th and 30th, are deserving of such an award.

In nearly all the campaigns in which the Seventh Infantry participated, it was outstanding. Some actions for which the Regiment might be cited were those performed in French Morocco; Sicily; those of the first crossing operations of the Volturno River in Italy when the "Cotton Balers" were congratulated by a personal message from Gen. Mark W. Clark; for actions on the Anzio Beachhead and on the road to Rome; for actions in southern France, the Vosges Mountains, and Alsace; for shattering the main resistance in the Third Division's sector of the Siegfried Line; for actions in Germany and Austria.

Besides citations for some of its individual actions the writer believes that the Seventh Infantry is deserving of an award or citation for its entire combat record of World War II, "From Fedala to Berchtesgaden," which was compiled through ten campaigns over a period of two and one-half years.

The Seventh Infantry was the regiment which was used in the assault more often than any other regiment in the division with which it fought. Also the Seventh Infantry suffered the most casualties of all the units of the Third Infantry Division, and it is quite commonly known that the Third Infantry Division led all divisions of the United States Army in the same field.

However, whether or not the Seventh Infantry is cited for its World War II actions as a unit is of little consequence. Down through the years the Regiment has garnered its share of honors. Few regiments (none in the 3d Infantry Division) fly so many streamers from their colors as does the Seventh Infantry. Every "Cotton Baler" who served in World War II knows that the record of the Seventh Infantry, sealed with the blood of thousands of its finest men and officers, could never be fully honored or recognized. Being the oldest, most battle-scarred, and for its actions since 1798 the most decorated of the three regiments which served with the Third Infantry Division in World War II, the "Cotton Baler" Regiment fought only to defeat the enemy.

⁵ "Cotton Balers" who went all the way from Fedala to Berchtesgaden have often wondered why there have been no citations for the fighting which occurred in Africa, Sicily, and Italy. For instance it is generally agreed that many of the roughest engagements were fought in Italy. The First Battalion was deserving of

its award for action from 20-24 November 1944 but it fought equally as brilliant in much rougher engagements on the Anzio Beachhead, after the crossing of the Volturno, and in the "Colmar Pocket Campaign." I think that many will agree that many of the other units have been overlooked.

⁶ Unfortunately during the stress of battle and for other reasons quite often deserving individuals go unrewarded for conspicuous, distinguished, gallant, or meritorious service in action. The question of awards has been quite often a bone of contention in the Army.

More than 2,000 awards (exclusive of the Purple Heart Medal and Combat Infantryman's Badge, etc.) were made to "Cotton Balers" during World War II. That may seem to many to be a very large number, but when one considers the number killed and wounded, and the number who served with the Regiment during the war, it will not be regarded as out of proportion to the sacrifices made. Many "Cotton Balers" who were deserving of awards were never cited.

Pfc. Juland A. Aaron, who was recommended for a DSC award, died of wounds but was only awarded the Purple Heart Medal. It would seem, that if his company officers saw fit to recommend for the second highest valor award, that upon disapproval of that award by higher headquarters, in lieu of it, he could very easily be awarded the Silver Star Medal or even the Bronze Star Medal. His case was just one instance of negligence on the part of the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Section. Very few of the dead members of the Regiment were awarded even the Bronze Star Medal.

On 1 Jan. 1946 at an open house party held by the C. G., 3d Inf. Div. in Bad Wildungen, Germany, Capt. Chas. C. Blossom, the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Officer, and the writer engaged in a friendly debate over the merits of the respective regiments of the division. It was agreed that the 7th, 15th and 30th Infantry were just about the three best in the U. S. Army but there was strong disagreement as to which of the three was the best. Capt. Blossom maintained that the 30th Infantry had compiled the best record during the war and based his argument on the fact that more C.M.H.'s and more D.S.C.'s had been awarded to members of the 30th than to members of the 7th. The writer of course maintained that the 7th had the edge and based his argument strictly on the combat record. The argument was never settled to the satisfaction of either. No one from the 15th took part in the verbal war. Capt. Blossom, by the way, had served with the 30th Infantry before becoming the 3d Inf. Div. Awards Officer.

Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand medals of honor to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection. And that the sum of ten thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying this resolution into effect.

Later on officers as well as enlisted men were made eligible for the award. Then during World War I Congress established the medal as the supreme award for valor by the United States government. The conditions were increased to five. The resolution which was passed on 9 July 1918 reads as follows:

Be it resolved . . . that the provisions of existing laws relating to the award of Medals of Honor to officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Army be, and they hereby are, amended so that the President is authorized to present, in the name of the Congress, a Medal of Honor only to each person, who while an officer or enlisted man of the Army, shall hereafter, in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, distinguish himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty.

The new conditions should be clearly understood. The winner of a Congressional Medal of Honor must be (1) an officer or enlisted man, who (2) in action involving actual conflict with the enemy, (3) distinguishes himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity, (4) at the risk of his life, (5) above and beyond the call of duty.

Of the two million men who went to France during World War I, only ninety were awarded the medal (28 posthumously). Seventy-three of the recipients were Infantrymen, five were Marines, four were members of machine gun battalions, two were Artillerymen, two were Airmen, two were Tankmen, one was an Engineer, and one was the Un-

known Soldier.⁷ Two of the recipients served with the Third Infantry Division.⁸ During World War II nearly 14,000,000 soldiers were mobilized for service in all theaters of operations and the zone of the interior. Of that great number only 239 received the highest valor award of the Medal of Honor (40% posthumously).⁹ Six (three posthumously) were "Cotton Balers" who are listed below.

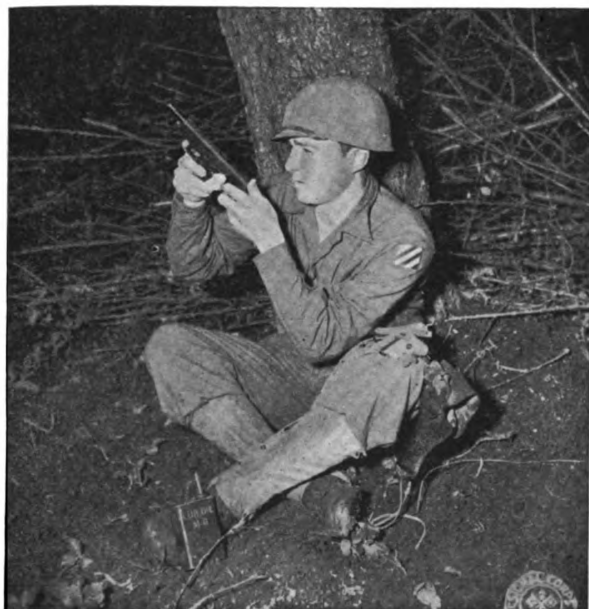
* Indicates the award was posthumous.

1. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS FLOYD K. LINDSTROM, Company "H".
For actions displayed on 11 November 1943 on Mount la Difensa, Italy. Private First Class Lindstrom was killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, on 3 February 1944.
2. *SERGEANT TRUMAN O. OLSON, Company "B".
For actions displayed on 30-31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Sergeant Olson died of wounds received in the actions on 31 January 1944.
3. SERGEANT JAMES P. CONNOR, Regimental Battle Patrol.
For actions displayed during the invasion of Southern France on 15 August 1944.
4. STAFF SERGEANT STANLEY BENDER, Company "E".
For actions displayed in Southern France on 16 August 1944.
5. TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE ROBERT D. MAXWELL, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
For actions displayed near Besancon, France, on 6-7 September 1944.
6. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSE F. VALDEZ, Company "B".
For actions displayed near Rosenkranz and Houssen, France, on 25 January 1945. Private First Class Valdez died of wounds received in the actions on 17 February 1945.

⁷ Hopper: "Medals of Honor," New York, 1929, vii-xix.

⁸ Recipients were Pfc. Charles D. Barger, Co. "K", 4th Infantry, and 1 Lt. George P. Hays, 10th Field Artillery Battalion.

⁹ Gen. Marshall's Report: "The Winning of the War in Europe and the Pacific," p. 110.



Private First Class Floyd K. Lindstrom



Staff Sergeant Truman O. Olson



Sergeant James P. Connor



Technical Sergeant Stanley Bender (on the right)



Technician Fifth Grade Robert D. Maxwell

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



"For extraordinary heroism in action."

Up to 4 February 1946 fifty-four awards had been made to former members of the Seventh Infantry of the Distinguished Service Cross and one award of the First Oak Leaf Cluster to the same medal had been made. The names of the recipients and the dates of actions for which they were cited are listed below in order of performance.

* Indicates the award was posthumous.

1. TECHNICIAN FIFTH GRADE SANFORD M. FORBES, Regimental Headquarters Company, 8 November 1942 in French Morocco. Technician Fifth Grade Forbes was killed in action in Sicily on 16 July 1943.
2. *PRIVATE WILLIAM H. BRAY, Company "L", 10 November 1942 near Casablanca, French Morocco, when Private Bray was killed.
3. *PRIVATE HERMAN A. WENDT, Medical Detachment, 10 August 1943 near Hill di Marco, Sicily, when Private Wendt was killed.
4. COLONEL HARRY B. SHERMAN, Commanding the Regiment, 24 September 1943 in Southern Italy.
5. SERGEANT BENNIE L. GUFFEY, Company "C", 13 October 1943 during the Volturno River crossing operations.
6. CAPTAIN WILLIAM P. ATHAS, Commanding Company "D", 16 October 1943 near Liberi, Italy. Captain Athas was killed in action on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, on 3 March 1944.
7. *CAPTAIN LEROY A. HASELWOOD, S-3, First Battalion, 18 October 1943 near Majorano di Monti, Italy, when Captain Haselwood was killed.
8. *STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS F. VALENTINO, Company "M", 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, when Staff Sergeant Valentino was killed.
9. MAJOR FRANK C. SINSEL, Commanding First Battalion, 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy.
10. MAJOR WILLIAM B. ROSSON, Commanding Third Battalion, 31 January 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy.
11. *STAFF SERGEANT HARRY J. LAWLOR, Company "L", 3 March 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy, when Staff Sergeant Lawlor was killed.
12. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EMERY BROOKS, Company "E", 23 May 1944 near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead.
13. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN N. MEGOWN, JR., Company "A", 24-25 May 1944 near Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead, when Private First Class Megown was killed.

14. *TECHNICAL SERGEANT EARL E. SWANSON, Company "F".
25 May 1944 in Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead. Technical Sergeant Swanson later received a battlefield commission, advanced to the grade of Captain and succeeded to the command of Company "F". While leading his company in the attack near Utweiler, Germany, on 15 March 1945 Captain Swanson was killed.
15. SERGEANT SAMUEL W. POLLARD, Company "F".
25 May 1944 in Cisterna di Littoria, Italy, during the breakthrough operations from the Anzio Beachhead.
16. STAFF SERGEANT RUDOLPH R. DAVILA, Company "H".
28 May 1944 near Ardena, Italy. Staff Sergeant Davila later received a battlefield commission.
17. PRIVATE CHARLES T. BORELLI, Company "A".
1 June 1944 near Ardena, Italy. Private Borelli was later promoted to the grade of Sergeant.
18. *PRIVATE EDWARD S. HORYT, Company "E".
17 August 1944 near Hyeres, France, when Private Horyt was killed in action.
19. *SECOND LIEUTENANT PATRICK H. ADAMS, Company "I".
29 August 1944 near Montelimar, France. Second Lieutenant Adams died of wounds received in action on 28 December 1944.
20. STAFF SERGEANT JOHN H. STANTON, Company "L".
12 September 1944 near Noroy-le-Bourg, France.
21. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL J. SMERILLO, Company "H".
15 September 1944 near Les Aynans, France.
22. LIEUTENANT COLONEL CLAYTON C. THOBRO, Commanding Second Battalion.
25 September 1944 near Ferdrupt, France.
23. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES M. HAUGHT, Company "A".
27 September 1944 near Rupt-sur-Moselle, France, when Private First Class Haught was killed.
24. STAFF SERGEANT VIRGIL D. FISHER, Company "A".
27 September 1944 near Rupt-sur-Moselle, France.
25. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS WALTER E. HALLEY, Company "B".
7 October 1944 near Vagney, France. Private First Class Halley was later promoted to the grade of Sergeant.
26. PRIVATE THOMAS R. SMALL, Company "C".
20 October 1944 near Bruyeres, France. Private Small was later promoted to the grade of Staff Sergeant.
27. STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL A. ERNST, Company "C".
22 October 1944 near Domfaing, France.
28. TECHNICAL SERGEANT LEONARD LEWIS, Company "L".
23 October 1944 near Amberfosse, France.
29. *PRIVATE MACARIO J. GALLARDO, Company "L".
28 October 1944 near Maramossa, France, when Private Gallardo was killed.
30. *STAFF SERGEANT GEORGE A. GRANDO, Company "L".
31 October 1944 near Maramossa, France, when Staff Sergeant Grando was killed.
31. STAFF SERGEANT WILLIAM R. DEZARN, Company "A".
3 November 1944 near Le Haute Jacques, France. Staff Sergeant Dezarn later received a battlefield commission.
32. PRIVATE EDGAR A. COSSON, Company "H".
4 November 1944 near Le Haute Jacques, France.
33. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EMIL STEFEK, JR., Company "K".
23 November 1944 in Saales, France, when Private First Class Stefek was killed.
34. *SERGEANT JOHN J. KELLY, Company "F".
1 December 1944 in Strasbourg, France, when Sergeant Kelly was killed.
35. FIRST LIEUTENANT BERNARD F. CODAY, Company "A".
22 January 1945 near Guemar, France.
36. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS STEPHEN C. LUDLAM, Company "E".
23 January 1945 near Ostheim, France, when Private First Class Ludlam was killed.
37. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ARTHUR MARCOTTE, Company "G".
23 January 1945 near Houssen, France, when Private First Class Marcotte was killed.
38. *PRIVATE CLIFTON C. THOMAS, Company "B".
23 January 1945 near Colmar, France, when Private Thomas was killed.
39. FIRST LIEUTENANT GARLIN M. CONNOR, Third Battalion Headquarters Company.
24 January 1945 near Houssen, France.
40. LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH W. WALLACE, Commanding First Battalion.
24 January 1945 near Ostheim, France.
41. TECHNICAL SERGEANT HARRY E. HAVENS, Company "G".
25 January 1945 near Houssen, France.
42. *PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSEPH J. BALE, Second Battalion Headquarters Company.
30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, France, when Private First Class Bale was killed.
43. *PRIVATE MARIO POMPONIO, Company "E".
30 January 1945 in Wihr-en-Plaine, France, when Private Pomponio was killed.
44. FIRST LIEUTENANT VICTOR M. MORRIS, Commanding Company "A".
5 February 1945 near Vogelsheim, France. First Lieutenant Morris was later promoted to the grade of Captain.
45. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CLARENCE FIRESTONE, Company "B".
15 March 1945 near Erching, France.
46. PRIVATE WILLIAM D. AVERY, Company "A".
15 March 1945 near Guiderkirch, France.
47. CAPTAIN WILLIAM D. ANTHONY, Commanding Company "I".
15 March 1945 near Utweiler, Germany.
48. STAFF SERGEANT ALBERT E. HASKELL, Company "A".
18 March 1945 near Zweibrücken, Germany.
49. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RUMALDO MEDINA, Company "L".
19 March 1945 near Althornbach, Germany.
50. SERGEANT ANTHONY J. BALBATON, Company "K".
22 March 1945 near Thaleischweiler, Germany.
51. TECHNICAL SERGEANT CLARENCE W. COPP, Company "B".
27 March 1945 near Sandhofen, Germany.
52. STAFF SERGEANT ANTHONY C. PECAR, Company "G".
8 April 1945 near Münnerstädt, Germany.
53. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHARLES H. ZWECK, Company "M".
3 May 1945 near Siegsdorf, Germany.
54. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS VINCENT A. LOGAN, Company "I".
3 May 1945 near Berchtesgaden, Germany.

First Oak Leaf Cluster to the
Distinguished Service Cross

1. LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH W. WALLACE, Commanding First Battalion.
22 January 1945 near Guemar, France.



Capt. W. K. Dieleman, 1 Lt. H. W. Erhardt, and Lt. Col. C. C. Thobro during a training exercise in France.



The D.S.C. recipients shown above were: (1) T/5 Sanford M. Forbes, (2) Pvt. Herman A. Wendt, posthumously, (3) Col. Harry B. Sherman and (4) Capt. William P. Athas received their awards from Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark on 15 Jan. 1944 in the Piano di Quarto area, Italy. (5) Capt. Leroy A. Haselwood, posthumously, (6) Maj. Frank C. Sinsel, (7) Maj. William B. Rosson, (8) S/Sgt. Harry J. Lawlor, posthumously, (9) Pfc. Emery Brooks, missing in action, (10) Pfc. John N. Megown, Jr., posthumously, (11) Capt. Earl E. Swanson, posthumously, (12) Sgt. Samuel W. Pollard, (13) 2 Lt. Rudolph R. Davila, (14) Sgt. Charles T. Borelli, (15) Pvt. Edward S. Horyt, posthumously, (16) 2 Lt. Patrick H. Adams.